Takahashi-san is listening.

高橋さんが聞いている。

1

Yu Hokuo

北欧ゆう

Takahashi-san
is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。

Takahashi-san is Listening. 1

Yu Hokuo

CHAPTER 1: THE EAVESDROPPING IDOL, TAKAHASHI-SAN → 003

CHAPTER 2: THE MAGIC KINGDOM → 019

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CHAPTER 6: THE SUN AND GYM CLASS AND KATOU → 063

CHAPTER 7: RELAXING MARCH → 075

CHAPTER 8: THE CALF'S REQUIEM → 085

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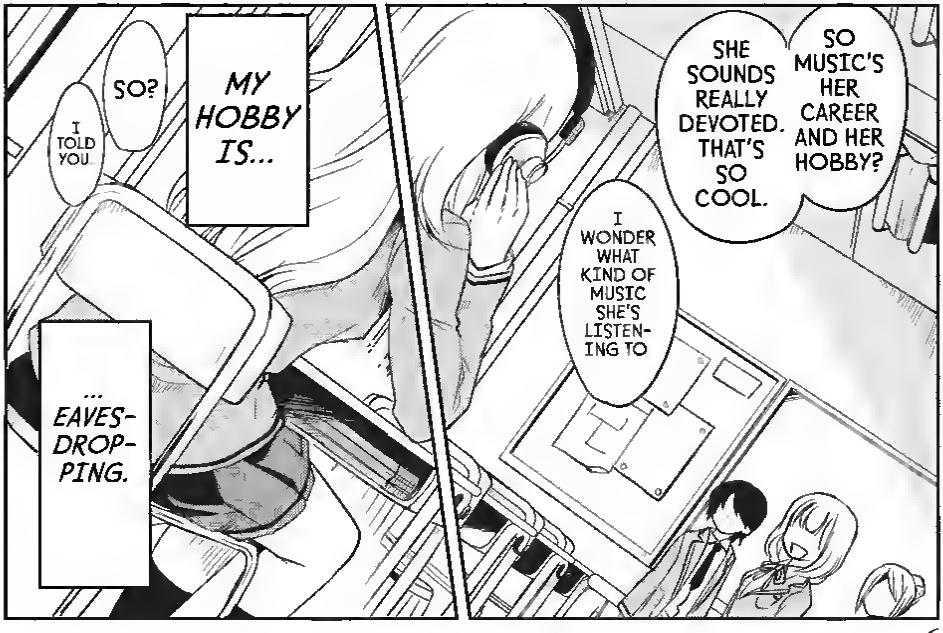
CHAPTER 12: THINGS THAT NEVER CHANGE, AND THINGS THAT DO → 129

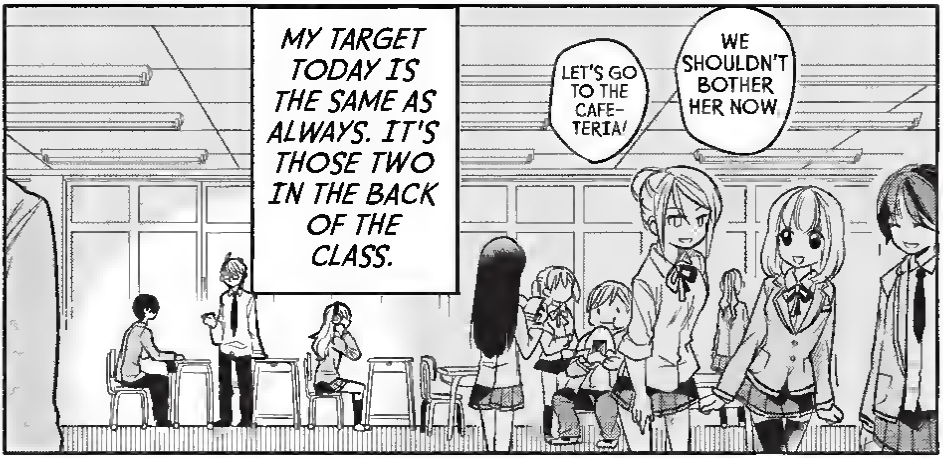
ENA TAKA-HASHI, HIGH SCHOOL GIRL AND IDOL...
...HAS A HOBBY THAT SHE CAN'T TELL ANYONE.
THAT IS...

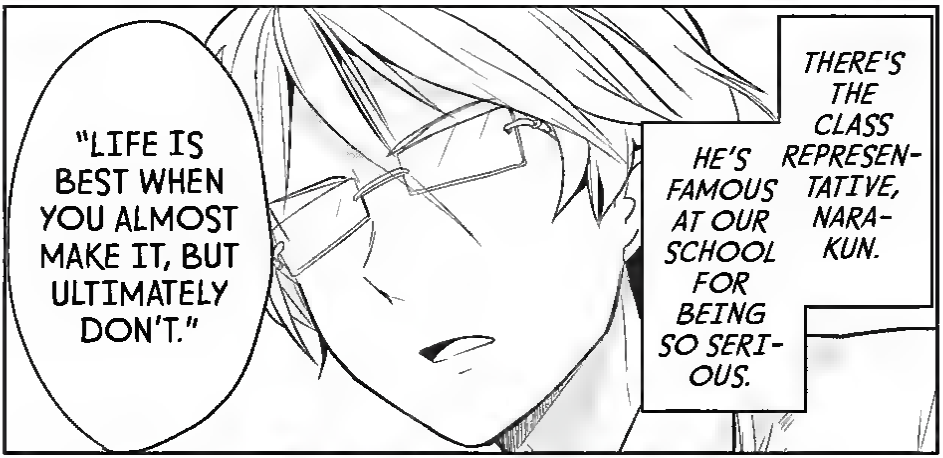
CHAPTER 1
THE EAVESDROPPING IDOL, TAKAHASHI-SAN

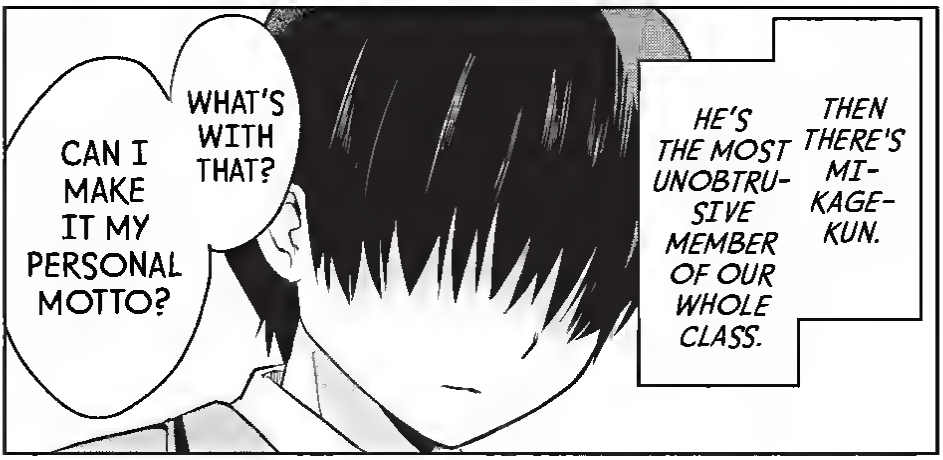
THREE DAYS AGO
CHEER
ワァァ…
GOOD JOB, ENA.
OH, SAE-JIMA!
HOW WAS MY CONCERT TODAY?
…
I CAN TELL YOU'RE WORKING HARD,
BUT THERE'S SOME-THING ABOUT YOUR PERFOR-MANCES...
THEY'RE JUST NOT VERY EXCIT-ING.
ENA-CHII!
SHH.
SHE'S GOT HER HEAD-PHONES ON.
THAT MEANS SHE'S FEELING A BIT BLUE
OH, I GET IT
I BET SHE'S LISTEN-ING TO MUSIC TO CHEER HERSELF UP
THAT'S SO VERY IDOL-LIKE.

NO SOUND
YEAH?
YEAH

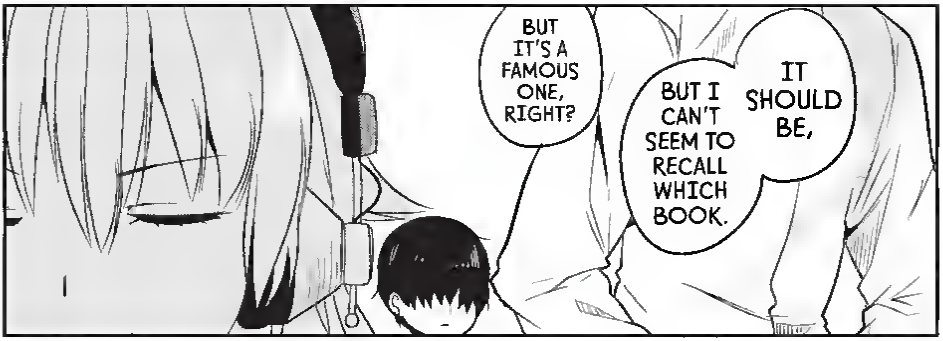

SO MUSIC'S HER CAREER AND HER HOBBY?
SHE SOUNDS REALLY DEVOTED. THAT'S SO COOL.
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF MUSIC SHE'S LISTEN-ING TO
MY HOBBY IS...
SO?
I TOLD YOU
...EAVES-DROP-PING.

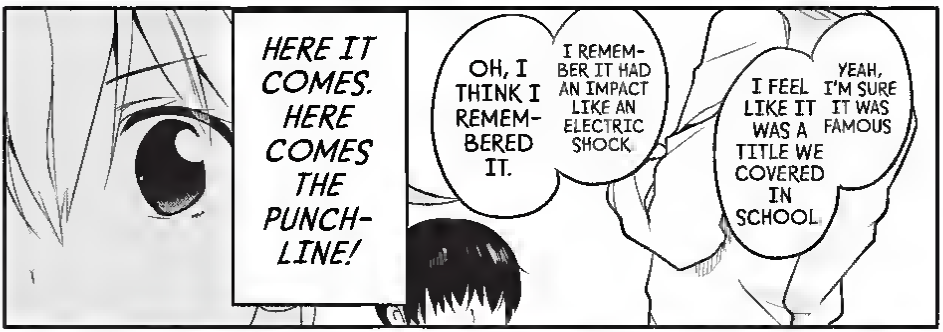

MY TARGET TODAY IS THE SAME AS ALWAYS. IT'S THOSE TWO IN THE BACK OF THE CLASS.
LET'S GO TO THE CAFE-TERIA!
WE SHOULDN'T BOTHER HER NOW.


"LIFE IS BEST WHEN YOU ALMOST MAKE IT, BUT ULTIMATELY DON'T."
THERE'S THE CLASS REPRESEN-TATIVE, NARA-KUN.
HE'S FAMOUS AT OUR SCHOOL FOR BEING SO SERI-OUS.


WHAT'S WITH THAT?
CAN I MAKE IT MY PERSONAL MOTTO?
THEN THERE'S MI-KAGE-KUN.
HE'S THE MOST UNOBTRU-SIVE MEMBER OF OUR WHOLE CLASS.

I HAVE A SPECIFIC REASON FOR SINGLING THEM OUT.
WHAT? SURE, I DON'T MIND.
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE IT TRADE-MARKED.
REALLY? I FEEL LIKE I'VE HEARD IT SOME-WHERE BEFORE.
OUT OF EVERY-ONE IN OUR CLASS...
...THEY HAVE THE FUNNIEST CONVER-SATIONS.
I KNOW AN IDOL SHOULDN'T DO THIS KIND OF THING.
NO, EVEN IF I WEREN'T AN IDOL, I FEEL LIKE IT'S A DIRTY HOBBY.
REALLY, I WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO DO IT..
BUT NO MATTER HOW DEPRESSED I AM...
I FEEL BETTER WHEN I START EAVES-DROPPING LIKE THIS.
SO TO MAKE SURE I CAN KEEP WORKING HARD TOMOR-ROW...
I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LISTEN IN, EVEN IF I FEEL A BIT BAD ABOUT IT.
IS IT A LINE FROM A BOOK?


BUT IT'S A FAMOUS ONE, RIGHT?
BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO RECALL WHICH BOOK.
IT SHOULD BE,


HERE IT COMES. HERE COMES THE PUNCH-LINE!
OH, I THINK I REMEMBERED IT.
I REMEMBER IT HAD AN IMPACT LIKE AN ELECTRIC SHOCK.
I FEEL LIKE IT WAS A TITLE WE COVERED IN SCHOOL.
YEAH, I'M SURE IT WAS FAMOUS

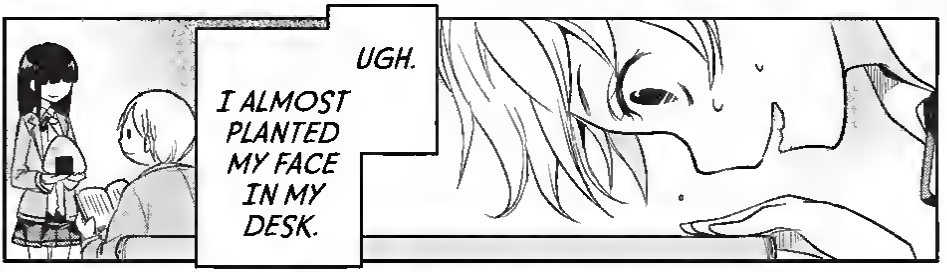
I JUST HAPPENED TO OVER-HEAR THEM!
THAT'S ALL! I JUST SORT OF HAPPENED TO OVER-HEAR THEM TALKING!
WHAT WAS IT CALLED?
YOU KNOW THE ONE.

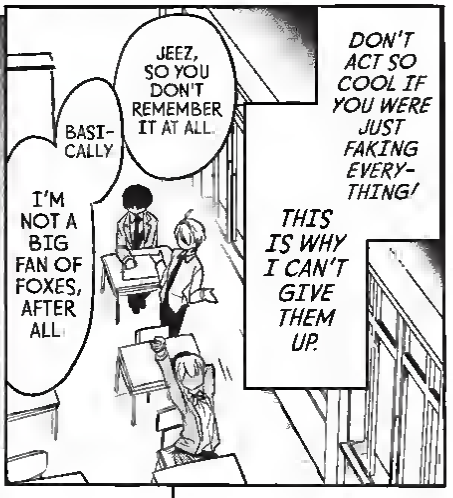
GON, THE LITTLE FOX.
THE FOXES NEVER COULD HAVE SEEN THIS COMING!
HERE IT COMES! I'M FEELING IT.
OOPS, I BETTER BE CAREFUL. NO ONE'S ON TO ME, RIGHT? OF COURSE NOT!
EVEN THOUGH I WANT NOTHING MORE THAN TO REVEL IN THIS FEELING,
I KNOW IT'LL BE THE END OF THE LINE FOR ME IF I'M FOUND OUT.
I HAVE TO KEEP ANY STRANGE REACTIONS TO A MINIMUM!
FREAK
WHAT A SNOOP
GROSS
THAT'S SICK
GON, THE LITTLE FOX?
WHAT, YOU DON'T REMEMBER IT?
I GUESS YOU ALWAYS LIKED MATH MORE THAN JAPANESE
NONSENSE I LIKE JAPANESE

I KNOW ALL ABOUT LITTLE FOXES GAN, GEN, GIN AND GUN TOO.
I EVEN STUDIED THE LITTLE FOXES WE DIDN'T COVER.
HOW CAN HE EVEN SAY THAT WITH A STRAIGHT FACE?
EVEN BACK THEN, I WAS SURE TO COVER MY BASES THREE DAYS BEFORE WE STUDIED SOMETHING IN CLASS.
AND I DIDN'T LIMIT MYSELF TO JUST GON, THE LITTLE FOX.
BECAUSE HIS NAME IS GUN?!
THE MORAL OF THE STORY WAS TO SHOOT BEFORE YOU GET SHOT.
SO WHAT WAS GUN, THE LITTLE FOX ABOUT?
THE LITTLE FOX WAS A SERIES?
THAT'S TRUE.
GON, THE LITTLE FOX WAS HEART-BREAKING.
BUT I GUESS THE ORIGINAL WAS STILL THE SAD-DEST.
THAT SOUNDS SAD,

EVEN I REMEMBER GON, THE LITTLE FOX. IT WAS A MASTERPIECE IN THE WORLD OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE.
GON
WOOU
I WISH I COULD HAVE EATEN THAT EEL.
GON
IT WAS SAD ENOUGH TO BRING A TEAR TO ANYONE'S EYE.
I'M NOT SURE THEY CAN TURN THINGS AROUND TO END ON A POSITIVE NOTE.
JUST KID-DING.
I BELIEVE IN THEM.
NO MATTER THE TOPIC, THEY ALWAYS MANAGE TO TURN IT INTO A JOKE.
SAD, HUH?
I'M INCLINED TO AGREE WITH YOU.

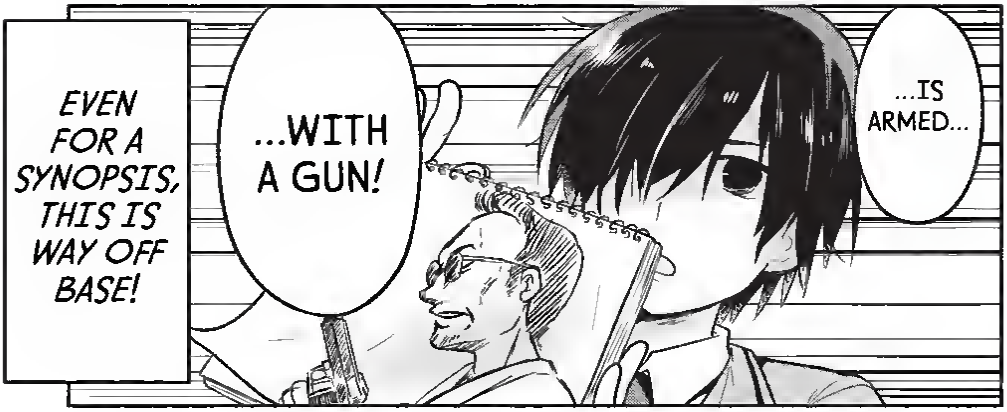
DESPITE STUDYING IT, HOWEVER, I DON'T REMEMBER IT ALL.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE A PROPER DISCUSSION WITH ME ABOUT IT.
HOW CAN THIS BE HAPPENING ?!
WHOOSH


UGH.
I ALMOST PLANTED MY FACE IN MY DESK.

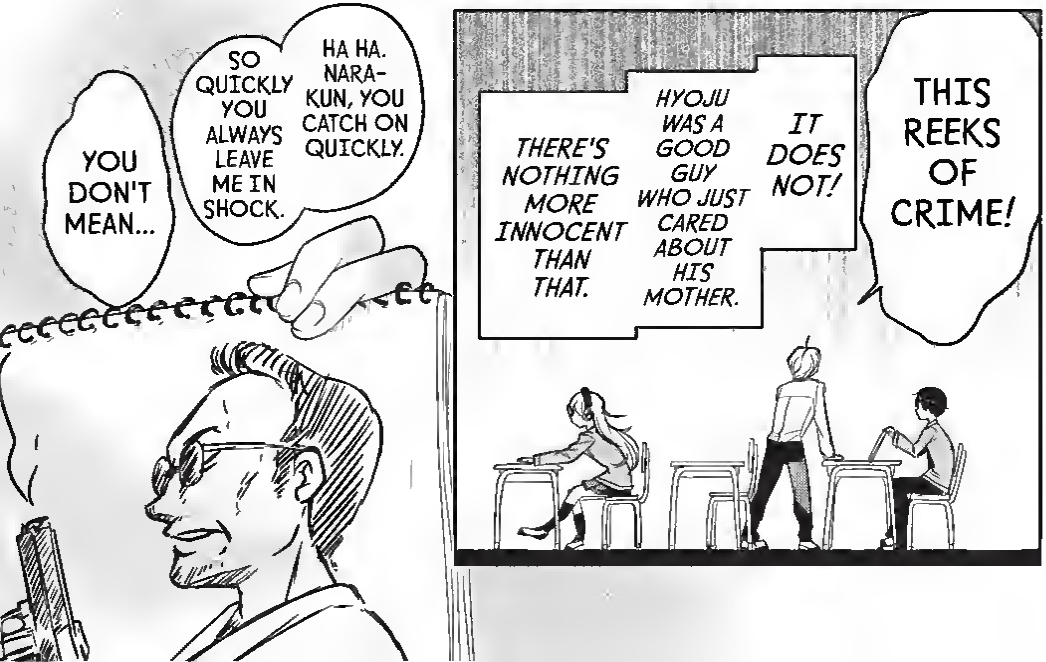

DON'T ACT SO COOL IF YOU WERE JUST FAKING EVERY-THING!
JEEZ, SO YOU DON'T REMEMBER IT AT ALL.
BASI-CALLY
I'M NOT A BIG FAN OF FOXES, AFTER ALL.
THIS IS WHY I CAN'T GIVE THEM UP.

SERIOUS
YOU BETTER WATCH WHAT YOU SAY, NARA-KUN.
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A FOX IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO BE WRITTEN ABOUT IN TEXT-BOOKS.

YOU SHOULD SHOW MORE RESPECT TO GON-SAN.
IF GON-SAN'S FANCLUB WERE TO HEAR ABOUT THIS, WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.
YOU CARE ENOUGH TO CALL HIM GON-SAN?
I- I'M SORRY.
I DIDN'T GIVE GON, THE LITTLE FOX ENOUGH CREDIT.
I MEAN ...
GON-SAN, THE LITTLE FOX.
RESPECT THE TITLE OF THE STORY ...
MI-KAGE, PLEASE!
I CAN'T AFFORD TO BLUNDER LIKE THIS AGAIN
CAN YOU FILL ME IN ON ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?
SURE
SCRATCH SCRATCH
YOU SHOULD FOCUS ON THIS MAN.
TAP
HE'S A VILLAGER THAT GOES BY THE NAME HYOJU.
THIS MAN...
RUSTLE RUSTLE


EVEN FOR A SYNOPSIS, THIS IS WAY OFF BASE!
...WITH A GUN!
...IS ARMED...

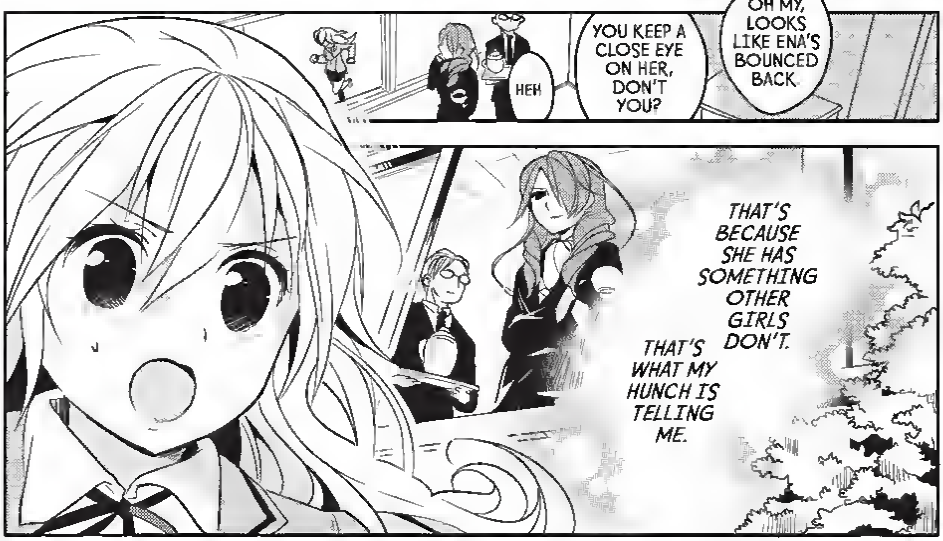
YOU'RE STILL PRETEND-ING THAT EXISTS?
JUST LIKE GUN, THE LITTLE FOX!
A GUN?!


YOU DON'T MEAN...
SO QUICKLY YOU ALWAYS LEAVE ME IN SHOCK.
HA HA. NARA-KUN, YOU CATCH ON QUICKLY.
THERE'S NOTHING MORE INNOCENT THAN THAT.
HYOJU WAS A GOOD GUY WHO JUST CARED ABOUT HIS MOTHER.
IT DOES NOT!
THIS REEKS OF CRIME!

EXACTLY!
HE'S A MURDERER!
HE'S THE CULPRIT!
HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR GON-SAN'S DEMISE!
YOU LEFT OUT A FEW THINGS!
THERE'S A WHOLE STORY! THERE'S A REASON GON, THE LITTLE FOX ENDS THAT WAY!
I HAVE TO TELL THEM! THEY HAVE TO KNOW SUCH A BEAUTIFUL STORY!
FIDGET
FIDGET
FIDGET
FIDGET
I REMEMBER NOW. THAT LAST SCENE WAS SO POWERFUL.
I'M HAPPY TO HEAR IT.
YES, I CAN SEE IT NOW AS GON QUIETLY BREATHES HIS LAST
...HYOJU LOOKS DOWN AND HIM...
...AND WHISPERS...

"GON, IT WAS YOU?"
"LIFE IS BEST WHEN YOU ALMOST MAKE IT, BUT ULTIMATELY DON'T."
HYOJU!
ENA-CHII!
HACHOO!
WHAT ...
WHAT IS IT?
SORRY FOR BOTHER-ING YOU.
OUR TEACHER SAYS HE WANTS TO SEE YOU RIGHT AWAY.

RIGHT NOW, I'M IN A GREAT MOOD!
NO WORRIES!
IT COULD BE OUR TEACHER OR ANYONE ELSE.
FLASH


HEH
YOU KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON HER, DON'T YOU?
OH MY, LOOKS LIKE ENA'S BOUNCED BACK.
THAT'S BECAUSE SHE HAS SOMETHING OTHER GIRLS DON'T.
THAT'S WHAT MY HUNCH IS TELLING ME.

I FEEL LIKE YOU COULDN'T TAKE SOMEONE'S LIFE
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE A REALIST
I ACTUALLY HATE ALMOST MAKING IT AND THEN NOT
SO ANYWAY, AFTER THINK-ING ABOUT IT,
THEY WERE TALKING WHEN I PASSED BY. THAT'S ALL.
I JUST SO HAPPENED TO OVERHEAR THEM.

English Digital Edition
Chapter 001

Takahashi-san is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。
Yu Hokuo

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Takahashi-san
is listening.
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CHAPTER 2

HEY.
IT'S TAKA-HASHI.
HER HAIR LOOKS GREAT BLOWING IN THE WIND LIKE THAT.
IT'S A QUIET AFTER-NOON.
THE SUN-LIGHT IS JUST BEAMING DOWN.
I CAN HEAR EVERYTHING CLEARLY TODAY.
THE BREEZE IS RUSTLING THE LEAVES, THE BIRDS ARE SING-ING...
...AND...

THE BOYS ARE TALKING!
CHAPTER 2
THE MAGIC KINGDOM

YES-TERDAY
HOW WAS THAT, SAEJIMA?
THAT'S THE CHOREOG-RAPHY I'M GOING TO USE FOR THE IDOL'S DON DOKO FESTIVAL!
IT WAS PRETTY GOOD,
BUT IT'S LACKING IN IMPACT.
HUH?

OF COURSE, I REALIZE THAT EAVES-DROPPING IS A DIRTY HOBBY.
I KNOW IF ANYONE EVER FOUND OUT, THEY'D NEVER TRUST ME AGAIN.
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO GET RID OF ALL OF THIS STRESS.
SHE WANTS ME TO DO MO-MOCLO'S SHRIMP JUMP!
LIKE A SHRIMP?
CAN'T YOU JUMP HIGHER?
LIKE A SHRIMP.
THAT'S ALL IT IS! I JUST SORT OF HAPPEN TO OVERHEAR PEOPLE.
BUT I JUST HAPPEN TO OVERHEAR THINGS!
I WANT TO GO SOME-PLACE ELSE.
I WONDER WHERE NARA-KUN WANTS TO GO. TOKYO UNIVERSI-TY? KYOTO UNIVERSI-TY?
OF COURSE NOT.
YEAH, ME NEITHER.
NO. I WOULDN'T WANT TO GO THERE ANYWAY.
HE'S TELLING HIS FRIEND TO GO TO HELL RIGHT OFF THE BAT?
OH, WHERE? TO HELL?
WHAT?
IT LOOKS LIKE I CAN'T GO AFTER ALL.
POST-SECONDARY GOALS SURVEY

THE MAGIC KINGDOM.
HE'S SO INNOCENT!
FWISH
I GET IT. THE OLD BAIT AND SWITCH.
TALK ABOUT SCHOOL AND THEN SPRING SOMETHING DREAMY ON ME.
DO YOU LIKE CROWDED PLACES OR SOMETHING??
WHAT? THAT'S NOT THE RIGHT REACTION.
I USED TO LOVE GOING THERE WHEN I WAS A KID.
YAY!
わあ
I CAN SEE CASTLES AND MOUNTAINS AND THE OCEAN AND THE STARS!

WELL, I WON'T STOP YOU.
IT'S NOT THAT.
IT'S HARD FOR A MAN TO GO SOMEWHERE LIKE THAT ALONE.
BUT YOU CAN GET ON RIDES EASILY IF YOU GO SOLO.
YOU CAN FIND GOOD DISCOUNTS FOR SINGLE ADMISSIONS TOO.
YEAH, I KNOW THAT.

YOU JUST NEED TO BUY THE MASKED RIDER PASS.
YOU MEAN THE SINGLE RIDER PASS!
BUT I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT WHAT MIGHT GO WRONG.
I ALWAYS THINK OF THE WORST CASE SCENARIOS

FOR EXAMPLE, LET'S SAY I SWALLOW MY PRIDE AND GO,
RESISTING THE LONELINESS CLOSING IN ON ME.
THEN, AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT,
I RUN INTO A CLASSMATE AT THE PARK.
I GET IT. THAT WOULD BE HARD.
THE CLASSMATE SNEERS AT ME, THEN TAKES PICTURES TO UPLOAD ONLINE.
THEY'D EVENTUALLY BE THE ONE CRITICIZED.
HE GETS FLAMED
HIS PERSONAL INFORMATION IS EXPOSED TO ALL.
THEN THE SCHOOL FINDS OUT.
THIS IS THE WORST CASE SCENARIO FOR THE CLASSMATE, NOT HIM!
POST-SECONDARY GOALS SURVEY

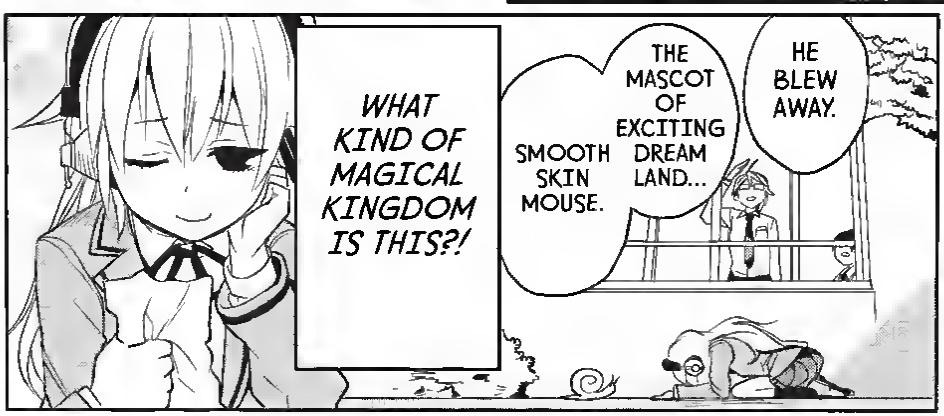
IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE IDEA, THEN DON'T GO.
SO BRUTALLY HONEST!
WHOOSH
I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE TO LET IT GO FOR NOW.
IT'S A SHAME THOUGH.
I WANTED TO RIDE THE NEW ATTRACTION
I WONDER IF HE'LL WAIT FOR ME THAT LONG.
THE MOUSE ...
A FEW YEARS, HUH?
WAIT A FEW YEARS THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO RIDE IN COMFORT
IT'LL BE CROWDED IF IT'S NEW
NO, I THINK HE'S TOO BUSY BEING FAMOUS AND WORKING TO DO THAT.
WILL HE CONTINUE TO WAIT FOR ME?!
EVEN IF I NEVER COME,
WILL HE REMAIN UNCHANGED?

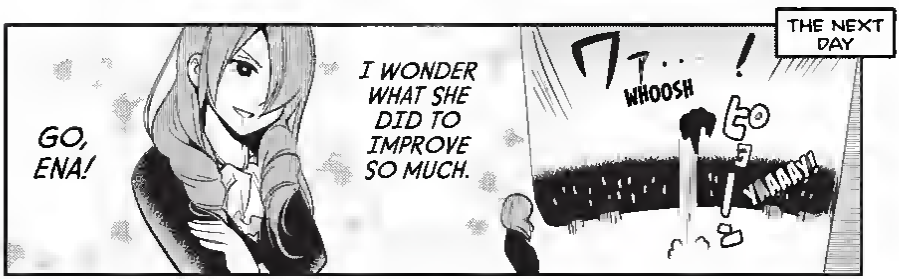
CLATTER
NOW?!
I'LL GO TO HIM RIGHT NOW!
I COULDN'T DO THAT! HOW COULD I MAKE MOUSE SO LONELY?
WAIT. BEFORE YOU GO, TELL ME ONE THING.
*A DOG FAMOUS FOR WAITING FOR HIS OWNER TO RETURN, EVEN AFTER HIS DEATH
LIKE *HACHI-KO!
...WILL BUILD A BRONZE STATUE IN HIS HONOR!
I'M SURE HE'LL WAIT.
AND ALL THE PEOPLE TOUCHED BY HIS LOYAL PATIENCE...
IT'S NOT RINGING ANY BELLS.
HE'S SO FAMOUS!
YOU DON'T KNOW HIM?
WHAT?
WHO IS THIS MOUSE GUY?
SCRITCH
LIKE THIS?
...AND A BLACK NOSE THAT POINTS UPWARDS.
YOU KNOW, THE MOUSE WITH THE LARGE EARS...
I'M SURE YOU'VE AT LEAST SEEN HIM.

TH-THIS IS BAD, MIKAGE-KUN!
YOU CAN'T ACTUALLY DRAW HIM!
THEY'LL COME! THE AGENTS OF MAGIC! AND THEIR MAGICAL COPY-RIGHT CLAIMS!
$1,000,000
HE'S GOT WHITE GLOVES TOO. RIGHT, RIGHT. JUST LIKE THAT
I'M TELLING YOU, YOU CAN'T! YOU DAMN FOUR-EYES! ARE YOU A MAGI-CAL SPY?

I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT NEWBIE AROUND LATELY.
YOU CAN'T BE A TUNA FISHERMAN! YOU'RE WAY TOO SCRAWNY.
SHLUFF
I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE IT BIG IN THE TUNA BUSINESS.
SHLUFF
MIKAGE-KUN'S FALLING RIGHT INTO A DEBT TRAP!
NOOOO!
YOU'RE JUST AS GUILTY FOR PRETENDING YOU DIDN'T SEE ANY-THING.
OH NO! WHAT IF...
FLIP
OOPS
IS ENA-CHII HERE?
IT SURE IS WINDY TODAY.
CLATTER
FLAP
I DON'T WANT TO BE...
...THE KIND OF IDOL...

FWISH
BAM
...WHO'S ONLY KNOWN FOR HER JUMP!
THUMP
?!


WHAT KIND OF MAGICAL KINGDOM IS THIS?!
SMOOTH SKIN MOUSE.
THE MASCOT OF EXCITING DREAM LAND...
HE BLEW AWAY.


THE NEXT DAY
GO, ENA!
I WONDER WHAT SHE DID TO IMPROVE SO MUCH.
WHOOSH
YAAAAY!

English Digital Edition
Chapter 002

Takahashi-san is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。
Yu Hokuo

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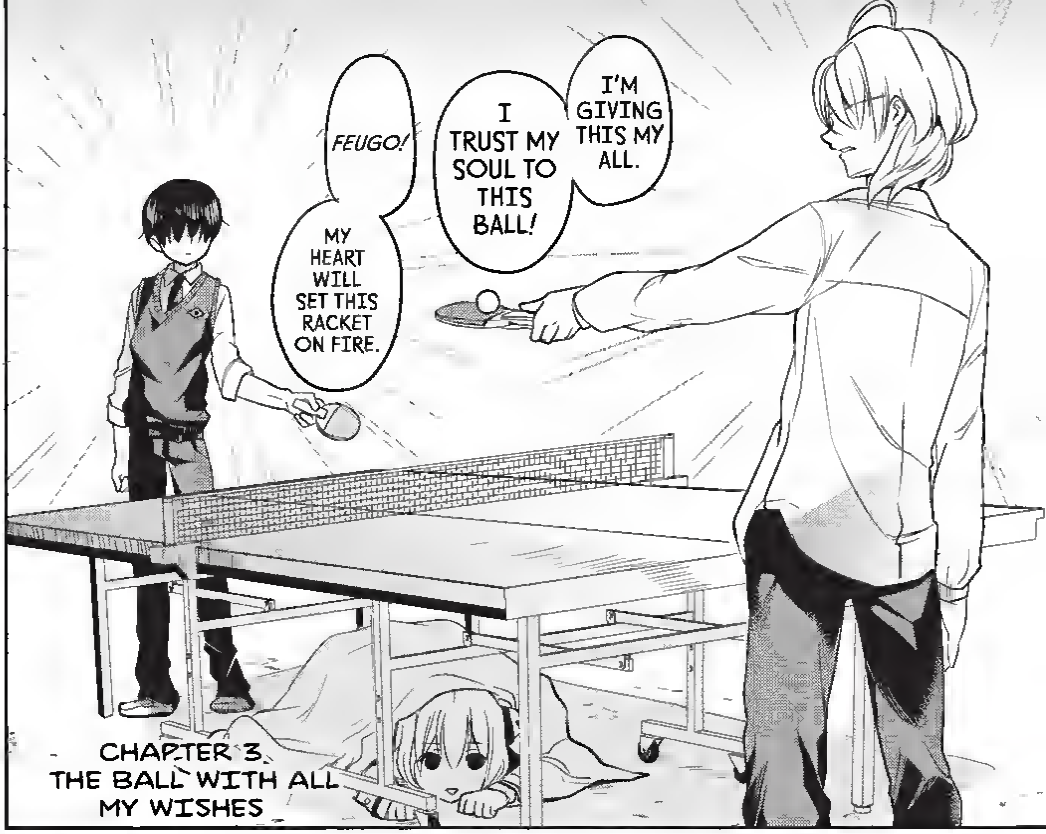
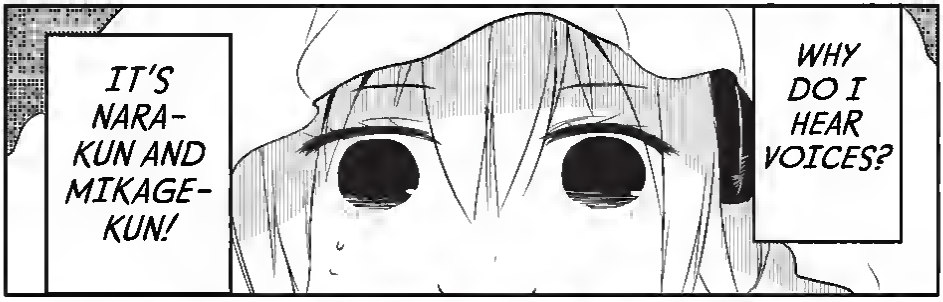
CHAPTER 3

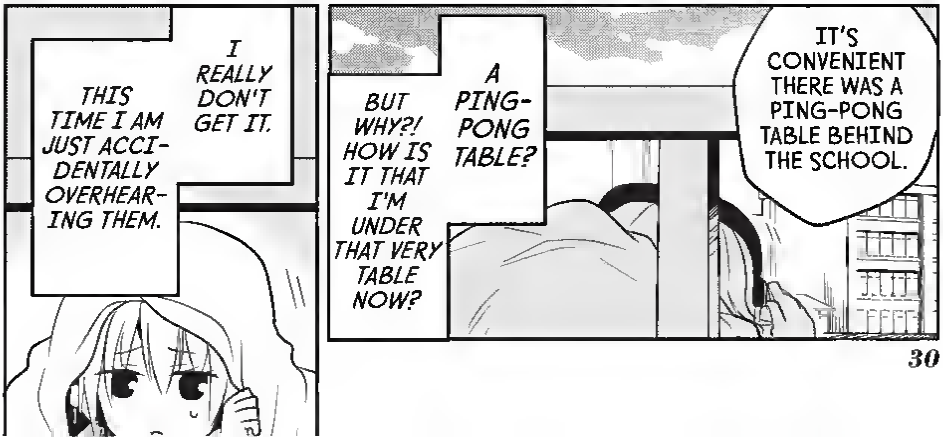
ふわ
YAWN
I FEEL LIKE I HAVEN'T GOTTEN ENOUGH SLEEP LATELY.
BUT I'VE GOTTA ...
...GET TO...MY LESS...
SLIDE
* DO YOUR BEST, CLASS A!
FLOP

HEY.
DOES THIS THING NOT FOLD UP?
NOPE.
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE TOSSING IT IT'S BROKEN
I DUNNO
LET'S JUST LEAVE IT HERE.
WHERE DO WE THROW IT OUT, EXACTLY?
NARA-KUN.
WE DON'T NEED TO GO TO THE STORE-ROOM THERE'S ONE RIGHT HERE.
YOU'RE RIGHT
LOOKS LIKE NO ONE'S AROUND EITHER THIS'LL WORK

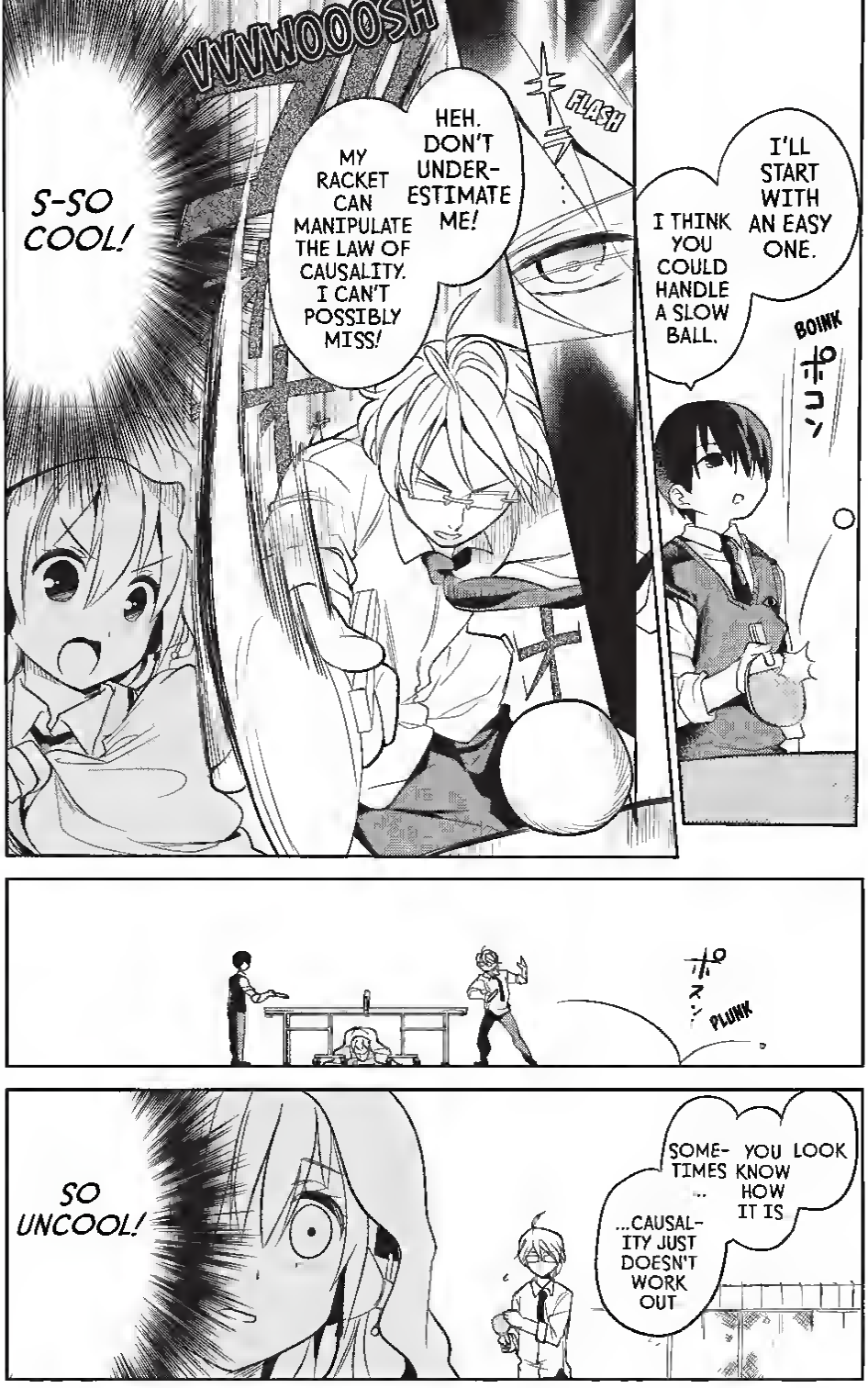


CHAPTER 3. THE BALL WITH ALL MY WISHES




IT'S CONVENIENT THERE WAS A PING-PONG TABLE BEHIND THE SCHOOL.
A PING-PONG TABLE?
BUT WHY?! HOW IS IT THAT I'M UNDER THAT VERY TABLE NOW?
I REALLY DON'T GET IT.
THIS TIME I AM JUST ACCI-DENTALLY OVERHEAR-ING THEM.

I GUESS I DON'T NEED TO WORRY IF I GET FOUND OUT.
IT'S PRETTY EMBARRASSING TO COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO PRACTICE BEFORE THE SPORTS TOURNAMENT,
SO YOU MUST KEEP ABSOLUTELY SILENT ABOUT IT.
RATS, NOW I CAN'T LET THEM FIND ME.
WAIT, I STILL HAVE TO GET TO MY LESSON.
I HOPE THEY FINISH SOON.
SORRY TO DRAG YOU ALONG.
I DON'T MIND.
I DON'T PARTICULARLY HATE PING-PONG.
I DO.
NOT JUST PING-PONG EITHER I HATE ALL BALL SPORTS.
SIGH
VOLLEY-BALL.
SOFT-BALL
DODGE-BALL.
AND EVEN CAPOEIRA!
THERE AREN'T ANY BALLS IN CAPOEIRA.
ALAS, I HAVE NO CHOICE NOW AS I MUST FACE THE SPORTS TOURNAMENT.
YOUR SERVE, MIKAGE.
SURE.


I'LL START WITH AN EASY ONE.
I THINK YOU COULD HANDLE A SLOW BALL.
BOINK
HEH. DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME!
MY RACKET CAN MANIPULATE THE LAW OF CAUSALITY. I CAN'T POSSIBLY MISS!
FLASH
VVVWOOOSH
S-SO COOL!
PLUNK
YOU LOOK KNOW HOW IT IS
SOME-TIMES ...
...CAUSAL-ITY JUST DOESN'T WORK OUT
SO UNCOOL!

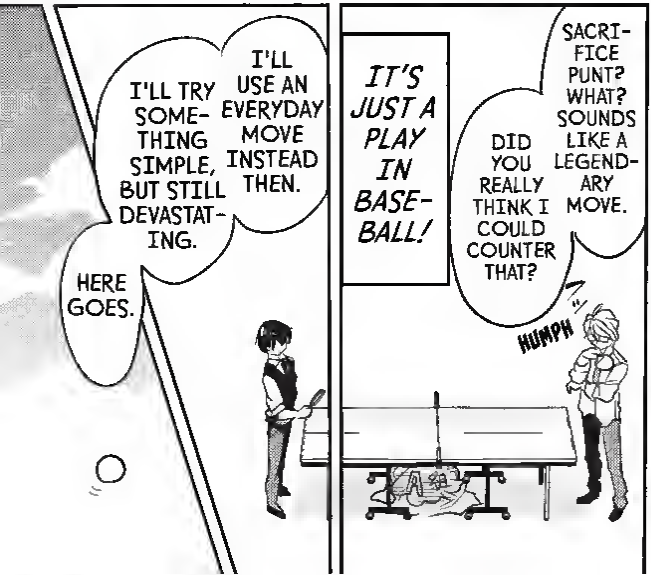
ACTUALLY, I THINK I SHOULD STOP HERE.
IT'S BAD TO RELY ON PURE PHYSICS. I'LL FIGHT WITH MY OWN STRENGTH!
THAT LAW DIDN'T STAY IN EFFECT VERY LONG.
IS THERE SOME SORT OF TRICK TO THIS?
A TRICK, HUH?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. YOU'LL GET THE NEXT ONE.
YOU'RE NOT STARTING CLASS HERE!
STAND! BOW! YOU MAY BE SEATED!
YELL-ING?
MAYBE TRY YELLING SOMETHING WHENEVER YOU HIT?
NOT LIKE THAT. ACT LIKE YOU'RE IN A SPORTS COMIC
LIKE, TRY YELLING THE NAME OF YOUR MOVE.
I GET IT! I JUST HAVE TO GET MYSELF IN CHARACTER.
COME!
HERE I GO
THERE

THAT'S THE WRONG SPORT!
PING
SLAM DUNK!
I HIT IT!
OH!
WHOA! HE REALLY DID! CONGRATS!
CONGRATULATIONS, NARA-KUN.
I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT GOOD KARMA.
I THINK WE CAN GO WITH THIS STRATEGY.
YEAH, I THINK IT'S WORKING OUT.
がんばれA組
*DO YOUR BEST, CLASS A!

IT'S NICE TO SEE KARMA AT WORK.
STOP PUSH-ING THE KARMA BIT.
MY KARMA
SO IT'S NOT EVEN NARA-KUN'S ?!
ALL RIGHT! YOU CAN USE SPECIAL MOVES TOO, MIKAGE.
I CAN?
OF COURSE! IT'D BE UNFAIR IF I WERE THE ONLY ONE.
LET'S GO!
LOOK AT THE TIME...
YOU GOT THE WRONG SPORT AGAIN!
THE BALL IS MY FRIEND!
UH...

GOOD PLAY! BUT YOU STILL HAVE THE TOTALLY WRONG SPORT...
SACRI-FICE BUNT!
POING

TUMP
TUMP

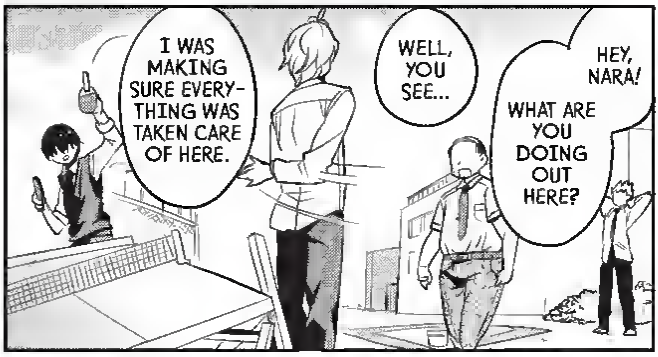

IT'S JUST A PLAY IN BASE-BALL!
SACRI-FICE PUNT? WHAT? SOUNDS LIKE A LEGEND-ARY MOVE.
DID YOU REALLY THINK I COULD COUNTER THAT?
HUMPH
I'LL USE AN EVERYDAY MOVE INSTEAD THEN.
I'LL TRY SOME-THING SIMPLE, BUT STILL DEVASTAT-ING.
HERE GOES.

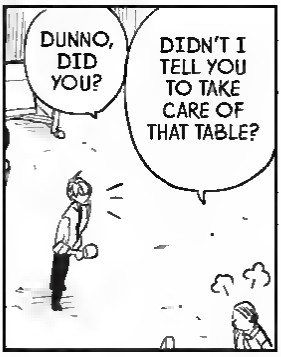
KONK
THROWING AN EMPTY CAN INTO YOUR EMPTY BIKE BASKET!
OH, I KNOW HOW THAT FEELS.
UGH...
TH-THE BALL IS MY FRIEND!
YOU USED THAT ONE ALREADY!
THWACK

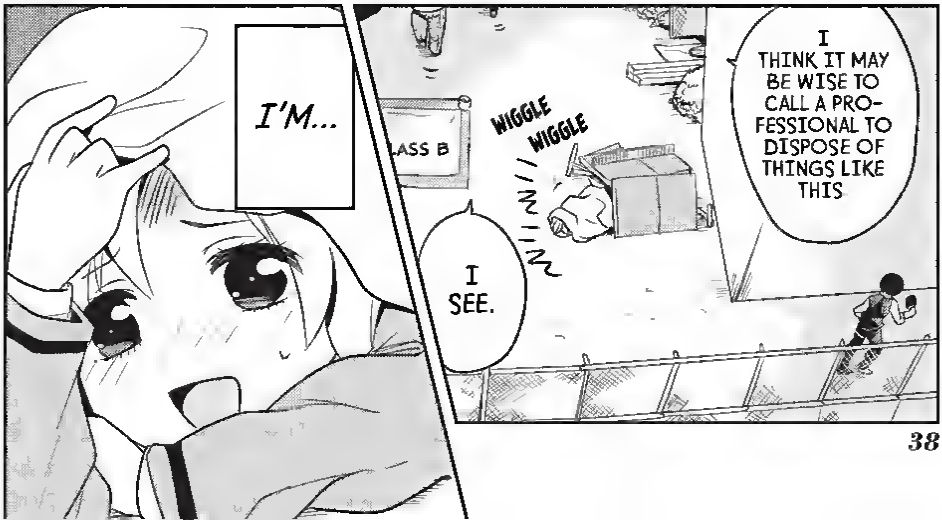
THROW-ING...
UH...
THEY'VE GOT A RALLY GOING! GOOD STUFF.
...IS THE BALL... MY FRIEND!
THWACK
DID YOU JUST LEAVE THE MARKET?
THROWING A USED BREAD BAG IN YOUR BIKE BASKET!
THUNK

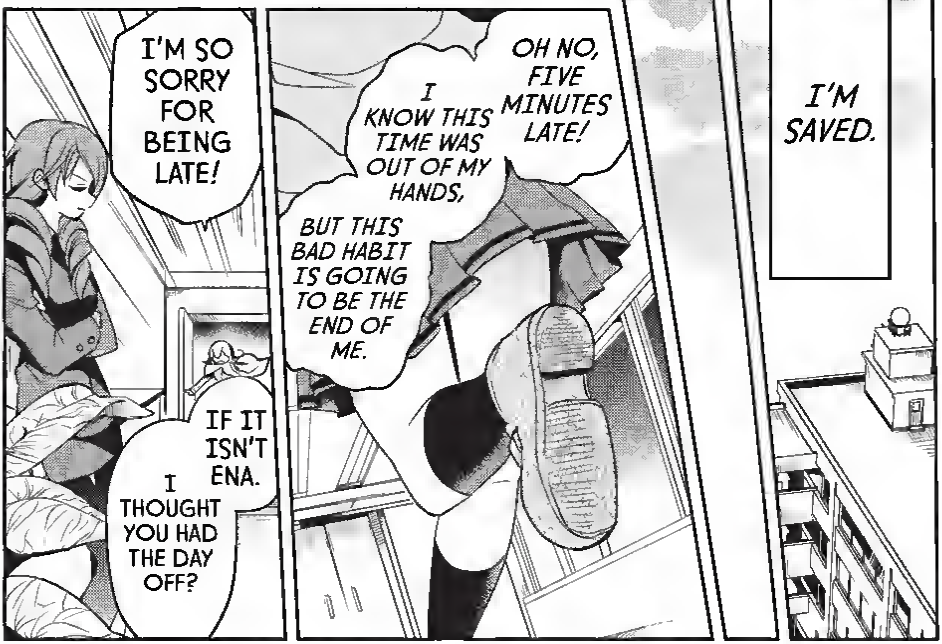
I CAN'T GET THEM OUT!
WHOOSH
THROWING CHOPSTICKS INTO YOUR BIKE BASKET UNTIL IT'S STUFFED!
GET SOME REAL FRIENDS!
THE CHOP-STICKS...
...ARE MY FRIENDS!
WHACK
WHAM
?!
DID THE TABLE MOVE JUST NOW?
D-DAMN...
DO YOU THINK SOME-THING'S WRONG WITH THI--
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK

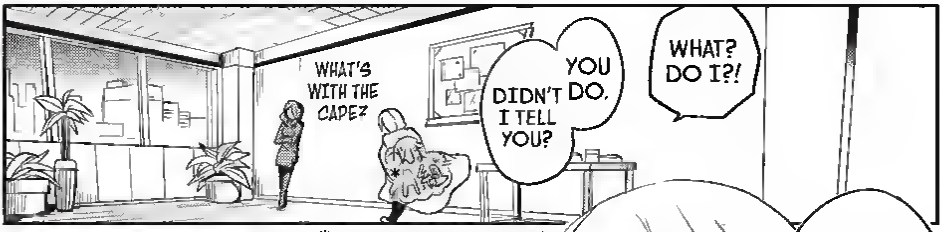
?!
KER-BLAM


I WAS MAKING SURE EVERY-THING WAS TAKEN CARE OF HERE.
WELL, YOU SEE...
HEY, NARA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?


DUNNO, DID YOU?
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO TAKE CARE OF THAT TABLE?


I'M...
LASS B
WIGGLE WIGGLE
I SEE.
I THINK IT MAY BE WISE TO CALL A PRO-FESSIONAL TO DISPOSE OF THINGS LIKE THIS


I'M SO SORRY FOR BEING LATE!
I THOUGHT YOU HAD THE DAY OFF?
IF IT ISN'T ENA.
OH NO, FIVE MINUTES LATE!
I KNOW THIS TIME WAS OUT OF MY HANDS,
BUT THIS BAD HABIT IS GOING TO BE THE END OF ME.
I'M SAVED.



*DO YOUR BEST, CLASS A!

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'M FINE EITHER WAY!
MY MY, I WONDER IF SOMETHING HAPPENED AGAIN
I WAS GOING EASY ON HER SINCE SHE'S SEEMED TIRED,
BUT MAYBE THERE WAS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT AFTER ALL
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, ENA!

Q: WHO WERE MOMOTARO'S FRIENDS?
A DOG, A MONKEY AND A BIRD.
WAS IT A PHEAS-ANT?

English Digital Edition
Chapter 003

Takahashi-san is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。
Yu Hokuo

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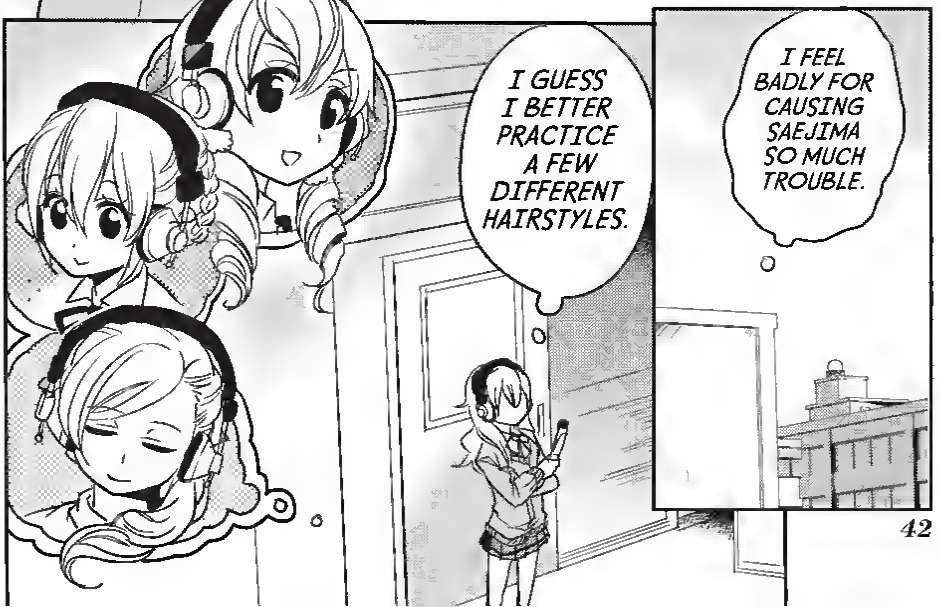
ENA, YOU'RE AN IDOL.
YOU CAN'T HAVE THE SAME HAIR-STYLE IN YOUR BLOG EVERY DAY.
BUT...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN BAD AT DOING THINGS LIKE MY HAIR.
ON THE OTHER HAND...
SAEJIMA, YOUR CURLS ARE TAKING ON A LIFE OF THEIR OWN.
PFFT!
...
IT'S LIKE THIS BECAUSE YOU WON'T DO ANYTHING WITH YOUR HAIR NO MATTER WHAT MINE LOOKS LIKE!
I...
I'M SORRY.

CHAPTER 4
THE FRONT LINE OF HAIRSTYLES



AWW, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE IN THE DUMPS AGAIN, ENA-CHII.
DO I?
DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
I SAW YOUR BLOG. YOU LOOK CUTE!
ENA-CHII!
PLINK
!
THAT CALLS FOR THESE, RIGHT?
I KNEW IT!
YOU ALWAYS CHEER RIGHT UP AFTER LISTENING TO SOME MUSIC.
UH, YEAH, THAT'S WHAT IT IS.
YEAH, THANKS!
FRIENDS ARE GREAT.
I HAVE TO MAKE SURE NO ONE FINDS OUT SO SHE KEEPS BEING NICE TO ME.

I CAN'T TELL HER I'M NOT LISTENING TO MUSIC.
I'M REALLY LISTENING IN ON THESE TWO GUYS.

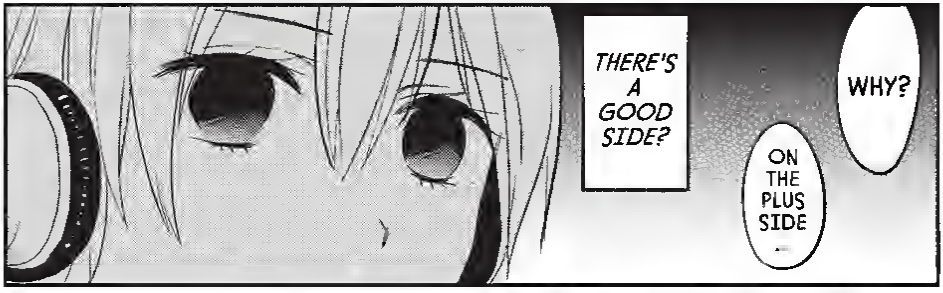
D-DON'T GET ME WRONG. IT'S JUST THAT IF I LISTEN TO THEM FOR A WHILE...
ドクン
THA-THUMP
I MEAN, IF I JUST HAPPEN TO OVERHEAR THEM..
IT MAKES ME FEEL BETTER. THAT'S ALL.
ドクン
THA-THUMP
I JUST SORT OF HAPPEN TO OVERHEAR THEM TALKING.
THAT'S RIGHT. I'LL NEED TO GET MY HAIR CUT SOON.

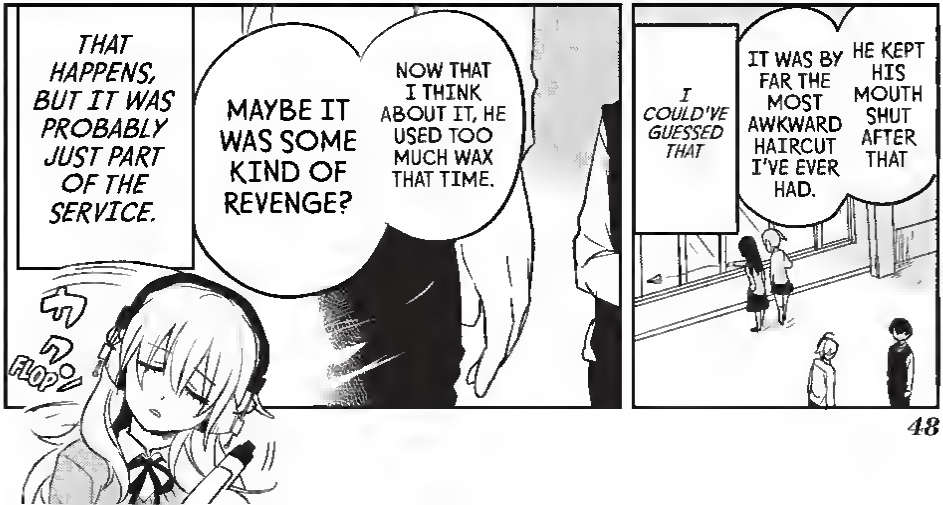
ARE YOU GOING TO GO FOR A BUZZ CUT?
ACTUALLY, I THINK A CREW CUT WOULD SUIT YOU BETTER, NARA-KUN.
A BUZZ CUT? I REMEMBER WHEN EVERYONE HAD THOSE.
A CREW CUT?
THAT'S SO RETRO, BUT I LIKE THE SOUNDS OF IT.
I APPRECIATE YOUR INPUT, MIKAGE...
...BUT I GET MY HAIR CUT AT THE SALON SO I DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ALL THAT
I DO, HOWEVER, FIND THE AWKWARD CONVERSATIONS WITH THE HAIRDRESSER TO BE DISTRESSING
REALLY? I ACTUALLY LIKE TALKING TO THE HAIRDRESSER WHEN I GET A CUT.
THE SALON, HUH?
I'M BAD AT IT TOO.
THEY JUST CAN'T STOP ASKING QUESTIONS. THEY'RE USUALLY PRETTY PERSONAL ONES TOO.
AFTER A WHILE, I JUST START REFLEXIVELY LYING.
MIKAGE.

IF YOU'RE LYING TO PROTECT SOMEONE ELSE...
...THEN YOU CAN TELL EVERY LIE YOU NEED TO.
I NEVER THOUGHT GETTING A HAIR CUT WOULD GET SO PHILO-SOPHICAL.
AS USUAL, THEY'RE FULL OF SUR-PRISES.
I JUST CAN'T RESIST THIS!
THA-THUMP
THA-THUMP
SO WHO, EXACTLY, ARE YOU PROTECT-ING, NARA-KUN?
ME.
SO YOU'RE JUST PRO-TECTING YOUR-SELF?
I KNOW THE TRUTH.
IF YOU'RE TOO HONEST, YOUR END WILL BE RUIN.
YOU HAVE A POINT...

JUST IMAGINE IF THE HAIR-DRESSER HAD BAD INTEN-TIONS.
DO YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND?
WHICH DO YOU LIKE BETTER, THE BEACH OR THE MOUN-TAINS?
THEY COULD ACT FRIENDLY BY ASKING SIMPLE QUES-TIONS,
BUT THEN SLIP IN SOME-THING DAS-TARDLY
LIKE, WHAT IF THEY ASKED FOR YOUR CREDIT CARD NUMBER?
UMM, I BELIEVE IT'S...
WHO WOULD JUST RECITE THEIR CREDIT CARD NUMBER?!
I'M GLAD YOU UNDER-STAND,
BUT YOU STILL NEED TO CHOOSE YOUR LIES WISELY
LET ME TELL YOU A LITTLE STORY.
RECENTLY, THE HAIR-DRESSER ASKED ME, "OH, ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY HOME FROM WORK? HA HA."
HIS TONE BOTHERED ME SO MUCH, I REPLIED WITHOUT THINKING.
"I'M NOT A GROWN MAN."

"I'M AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GIRL."
.....
GAPE
パクパク


WHY?
ON THE PLUS SIDE.
THERE'S A GOOD SIDE?


I COULD'VE GUESSED THAT
IT WAS BY FAR THE MOST AWKWARD HAIRCUT I'VE EVER HAD.
HE KEPT HIS MOUTH SHUT AFTER THAT
THAT HAPPENS, BUT IT WAS PROBABLY JUST PART OF THE SERVICE.
MAYBE IT WAS SOME KIND OF REVENGE?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, HE USED TOO MUCH WAX THAT TIME.
FLOP

NARA-KUN, YOU WERE VERY RUDE TO THAT HAIR-DRESSER
YOU KNOW THEY'RE ONLY SATISFIED IF YOU'RE COVERED IN WAX.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
THAT'S THEIR JOB.
SOME OF THEM LOVE IT SO MUCH THEY'RE JUST DRIPPING WITH IT.
THAT DOES NOT HAPPEN!
SHAKE
I KNOW THEY USE THE WAX TO KEEP YOUR HAIR EXACTLY LIKE THEY STYLED IT,
BUT SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE I CAN NEVER RECREATE THE LOOK.
THAT HAPPENS.
FLOP
THAT'S TRUE,
BUT WITHOUT PROPER UPKEEP, YOU'LL FIND WEEDS STARTING TO SPROUT.
THAT DOES NOT HAPPEN!
SHAKE
IF YOU LET IT GET BAD ENOUGH THAT YOUR HAIR DRIES OUT,
THEY'LL SWINDLE YOU INTO HAIR TREATMENTS.
THAT HAPPENS.
FLOP
THEY'LL EVEN GET YOU TO BUY A NEW PRINTER AND DIGITAL CAMERA. SOMETIMES A WHOLE NEW COMPUTER.
THAT DOES NOT HAPPEN!
SHAKE

I WONDER IF ENA-CHII FEELS BETTER YET.
YUP.
NOPE
SOMETIMES IT TURNS INTO BRAIN SURGERY.
NOPE!
YUP.
WHEN YOU GET YOUR HAIR SHAMPOOED, THEY RUB YOUR HEAD.
YUP.
YUP.
NOPE.
YUP.
NOPE
?!
WHOOSH
YUP.
THEY DID THAT ALL FOR ME?
ALL OF THAT IS PART OF THE JOB DESCRIPTION?
RIGHT I'LL HAVE TO ACCEPT THEM FOR WHO THEY ARE NOW
PROS.
I SEE YOU UNDERSTAND NOW
I'LL TRUST THEM FROM NOW ON.

HE'S BEEN BRAIN-WASHED!
INDEED, I'LL DEVOTE MYSELF ENTIRELY TO THE LORD HAIR-DRESSER'S MESSAGE.
AFTER ALL, IF EVERYONE WOULD JUST TRUST IN THE LORD HAIR-DRESSER, WE WOULD ALL BE SAVED.
FWOOSH
シュルッ
OH!
ENA-CHII, THAT LOOKS AMAZING.
HUH? WHAT DOES?
YOU'RE SO GOOD WITH YOUR HANDS!
AND YOU DID IT SO QUICKLY! IT'S LIKE IT WAS TO THE BEAT OF YOUR MUSIC.
I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO DO THAT.

I-I DID IT...
...WITHOUT EVEN THINKING!
YOUR HAIR LOOKS SO NICE. IT'S LIKE YOU'RE A PRO!
SO IT DOESN'T STOP AT MAKING ME FEEL BETTER...
THERE'S MORE TO EAVESDROPPING THAN I EVER IMAGINED!
IS THIS ALL THANKS TO MY EAVESDROPPING?
IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU!
OH, YOU CURLED YOUR HAIR, ENA!
HOWEVER, ENA, YOU'VE STILL GOT A LONG WAY TO GO TO BEAT MY CURLS!
I GUESS MY GUIDANCE DIDN'T GO TO WASTE AFTER ALL.
JUST LOOK AT HER.
CHECK THIS OUT.
SORRY ABOUT EVERYTHING YESTERDAY, SAEJIMA!

English Digital Edition
Chapter 004

Takahashi-san is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。
Yu Hokuo

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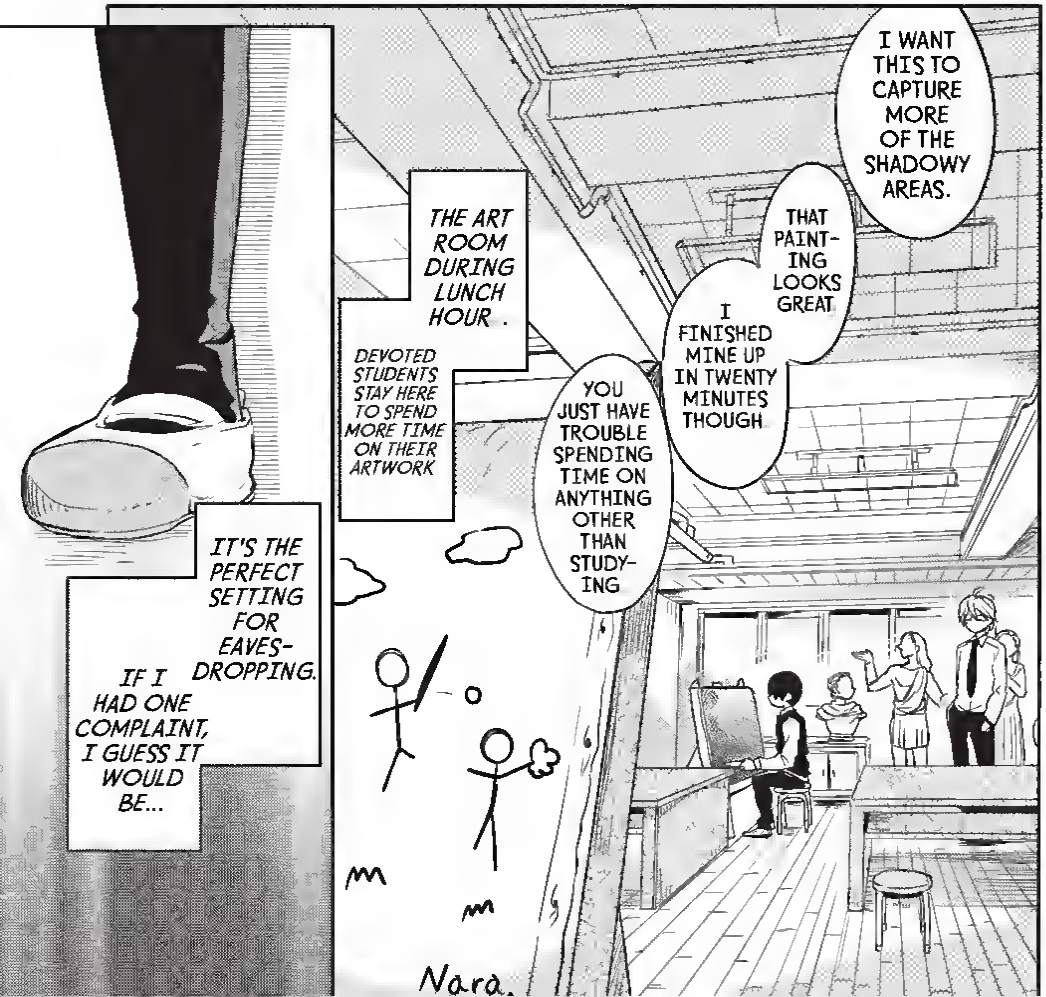
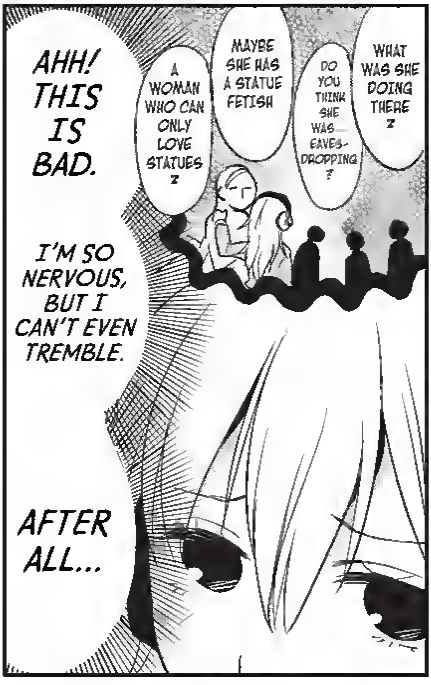
CHAPTER 5

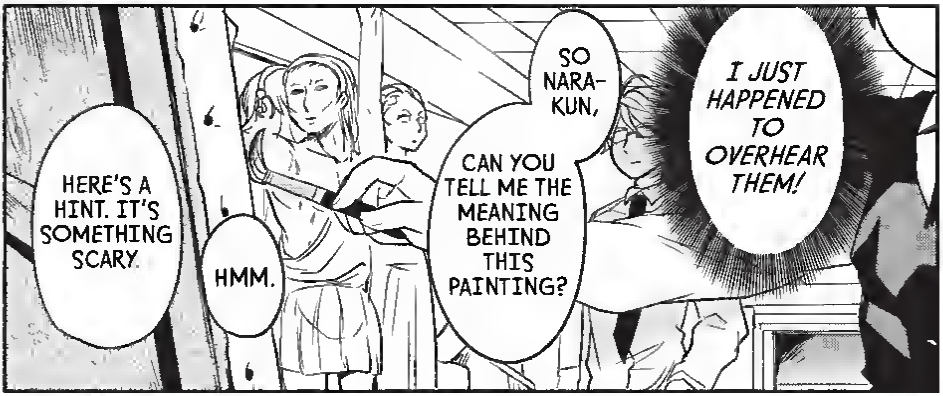
I'VE GOT YOGA TODAY.
IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD...
SCHEDULE
15:30 YOGA
BUT JUST IN CASE, I'LL INDULGE IN A BIT OF EAVES-DROPPING.

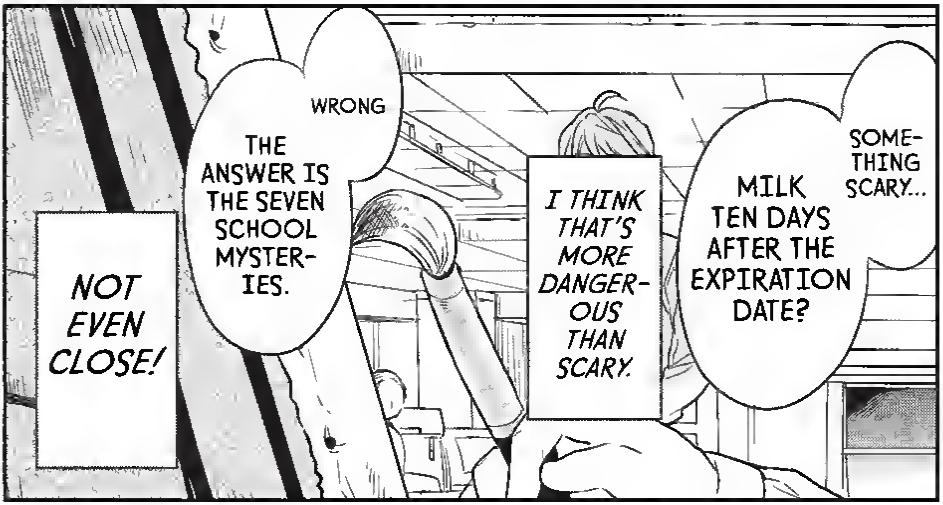

IT'S THE PERFECT SETTING FOR EAVES-DROPPING.
IF I HAD ONE COMPLAINT, I GUESS IT WOULD BE...
THE ART ROOM DURING LUNCH HOUR.
DEVOTED STUDENTS STAY HERE TO SPEND MORE TIME ON THEIR ARTWORK
YOU JUST HAVE TROUBLE SPENDING TIME ON ANYTHING OTHER THAN STUDYING
I FINISHED MINE UP IN TWENTY MINUTES THOUGH
THAT PAINTING LOOKS GREAT
I WANT THIS TO CAPTURE MORE OF THE SHADOWY AREAS.
Nara.

I GUESS IT WOULD BE THAT I CHOSE THE WORST POSSIBLE HIDING PLACE.
CHAPTER 5
THE SCHOOL STAIRCASE

THE COOL STATUE FELT GOOD AT FIRST IN THIS EARLY SUMMER HEAT, BUT NOW I'M STUCK HERE.
IF I MOVE ...

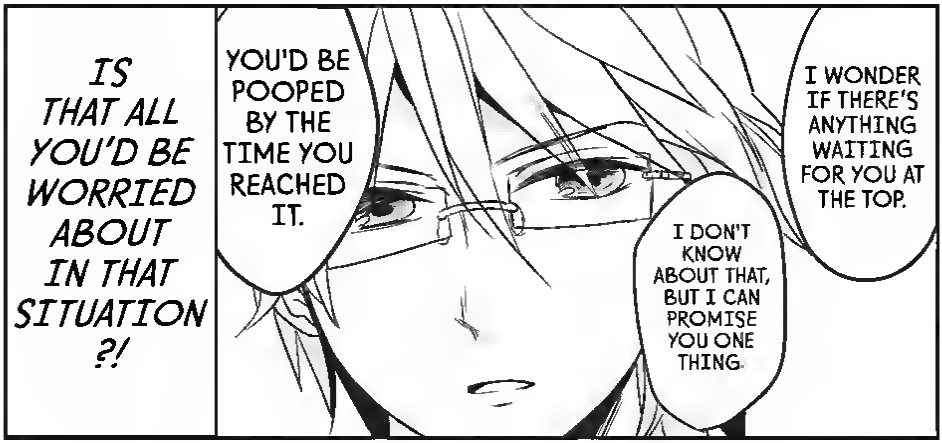

AHH! THIS IS BAD.
I'M SO NERVOUS, BUT I CAN'T EVEN TREMBLE.
AFTER ALL...
A WOMAN WHO CAN ONLY LOVE STATUES?
MAYBE SHE HAS A STATUE FETISH
DO YOU THINK SHE WAS— EAVES-DROPPING?
WHAT WAS SHE DOING THERE?


I JUST HAPPENED TO OVERHEAR THEM!
SO NARA-KUN,
CAN YOU TELL ME THE MEANING BEHIND THIS PAINTING?
HMM.
HERE'S A HINT. IT'S SOMETHING SCARY.


SOME-THING SCARY...
MILK TEN DAYS AFTER THE EXPIRATION DATE?
I THINK THAT'S MORE DANGER-OUS THAN SCARY.
WRONG
THE ANSWER IS THE SEVEN SCHOOL MYSTER-IES.
NOT EVEN CLOSE!

THE SEVEN SCHOOL MYSTERIES? I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW OUR SCHOOL HAD ANY
I GUESS THIS PART IS THE GROWING STAIRCASE MYSTERY?
THAT STAIRCASE NORMALLY HAS TWELVE STEPS,
BUT THEY SAY IF YOU CLIMB IT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND COUNT EACH STEP AS YOU GO...

YOU'LL COUNT 130 STEPS TOTAL.
YOU'D NOTICE THAT BEFORE YOU EVEN STARTED!
OOPS!
WHOA, THAT WAS CLOSE.
WHIRL
WHIRL
HALT
THEY DIDN'T NOTICE ME, RIGHT? RIGHT!
YEAH, THE FIRST ONE'S PRETTY CREEPY, RIGHT?

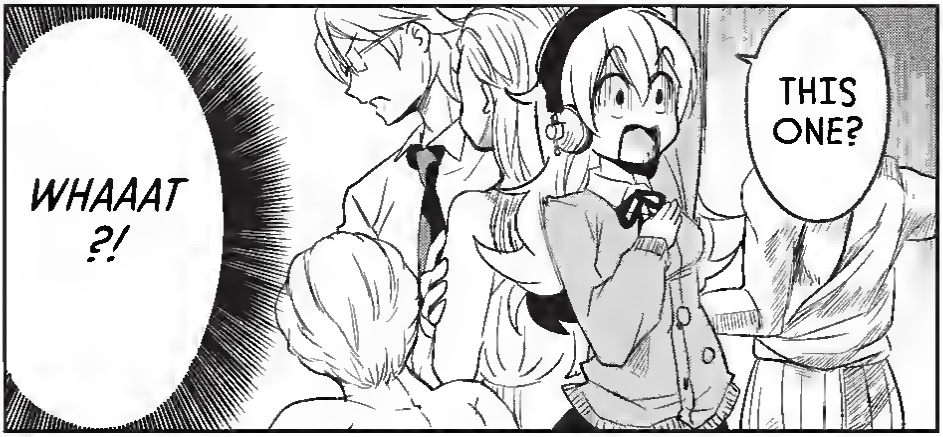

I WONDER IF THERE'S ANYTHING WAITING FOR YOU AT THE TOP.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, BUT I CAN PROMISE YOU ONE THING.
YOU'D BE POOPED BY THE TIME YOU REACHED IT.
IS THAT ALL YOU'D BE WORRIED ABOUT IN THAT SITUATION?!

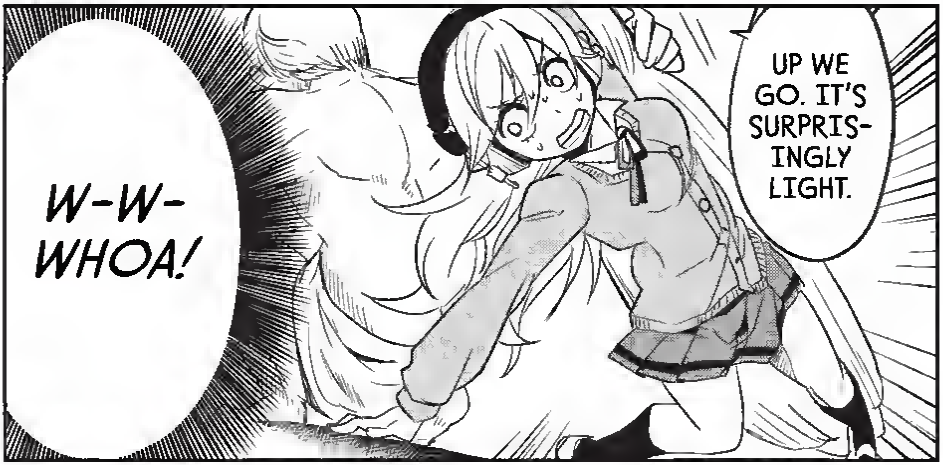
WHY WOULD YOU BE AT SCHOOL AT NIGHT ANYWAY?
CAN'T AGREE WITH YOU MORE.
I DON'T WANT TO TIRE MYSELF OUT FOR NOTHING.
I'LL BE SURE TO AVOID ANY STAIRS AT SCHOOL AT NIGHT
GOT IT.
IT'S IMPORTANT TO FEAR THAT WHICH IS DANGEROUS.
EXACTLY.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE PAINTING SUCH AN EERIE PIECE.
I SEE.
SO WEARING A HELMET WOULD MAKE IT OKAY?
ESPECIALLY WITHOUT A HELMET.
GETTING INVOLVED IN THESE URBAN LEGENDS OUT OF CURIOSITY IS NOTHING SHORT OF SUICIDE
THESE MYSTERIES WOULDN'T END WELL FOR ANYONE.
LET'S CONSIDER THE SECOND ONE.
THEY SAY YOU CAN HEAR AN INSTRUMENT PLAYING IN THE EMPTY MUSIC ROOM.
I WANT EVERYONE TO BE JUST AS PRUDENT AS YOU, NARA-KUN.
IN ANY EVENT,

A GÜIRO.
WHY'D YOU CHOOSE SUCH A MINOR INSTRUMENT?
THE ROOM HAS A PIANO AND YOU WENT WITH THE GÜIRO?
THERE WERE PLENTY OF INSTRUMENTS TO CHOOSE FROM!
A GÜIRO? REALLY?
BAM
IT PLAYS ON ITS OWN? THAT'S GÜIRO DANGEROUS!
IT'S DEFINITELY GUIRO DANGEROUS.
DO THEY THINK IT'S AN ADJECTIVE?
WHY IS ALL THE SPOOKY STUFF IN THE MUSIC ROOM?
IF YOU PUT THEM ALL TOGETHER, YOU'D BASICALLY HAVE A BAND.
FOURTH IS THE BLEEDING XYLOPHONE.
THIRD IS THE SINGING BEETHOVEN

THE MUSIC ROOM IS DANGEROUS AT NIGHT. I'LL REMEMBER THAT.
DOES THE FIFTH MYSTERY ALSO REQUIRE SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS?
IT'S THE GHOST OF A GIRL WHO HAUNTS THE WASHROOM. HER NAME IS...
TIARA-CHAN...
...OF THE TOILET!
WHAT A FANCY NAME!
I GUESS THE ERA OF HANAKO-SAN OF THE TOILET HAS COME TO AN END.
THAT BRINGS US TO OUR SIXTH MYSTERY, THE HORROR OF THE BIOLOGY LAB.

THE ANATOMY DUMMY HAS SUCH A BAD TUMMY ACHE THAT HE HAS TO SIT IN THE CORNER.
THEN WE SHOULD CALL THE NURSE!
THERE'S NEVER BEEN A SINGLE STUDENT WHO'S SEEN HIM... ...THAT HAPPENED TO HAVE ANY MEDICINE FOR A TUMMY ACHE.
WHAT A HOPELESS STORY! IT'S NOTHING SHORT OF TERRIFYING!
I FEEL SO SORRY FOR HIM!
I'LL BE SURE TO CARRY ANTACIDS FROM NOW ON.
...
HMM? WHAT'S THE MATTER, MIKAGE?
SPEAKING OF DUMMIES, I JUST HAD AN IDEA.
NARA-KUN, COULD YOU MOVE THAT STATUE BEHIND YOU OVER HERE?
WHAT?!


THIS ONE?
WHAAAT ?!


UP WE GO. IT'S SURPRIS-INGLY LIGHT.
W-W-WHOA!

YOOOO-GAAAAA!

GREAT, THANKS. I THINK I CAN MAKE A GOOD PICTURE OUT OF THIS.
SAFE.
THE SEVENTH MYSTERY IS...
...THE TREMBLING STATUE IN THE ART ROOM!
LET'S GO, NARA-KUN.
WHAT'S THE MATTER ALL OF A SUDDEN?
THERE'S A SHRINE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT'S GOOD AT PERFORMING EXORCISMS.
OH, I SEE.
OH MY, ENA. YOU'RE SO PASSIONATE TODAY.
I JUST THINK IT'S A GOOD SKILL TO HAVE.

English Digital Edition
Chapter 005

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Yu Hokuo

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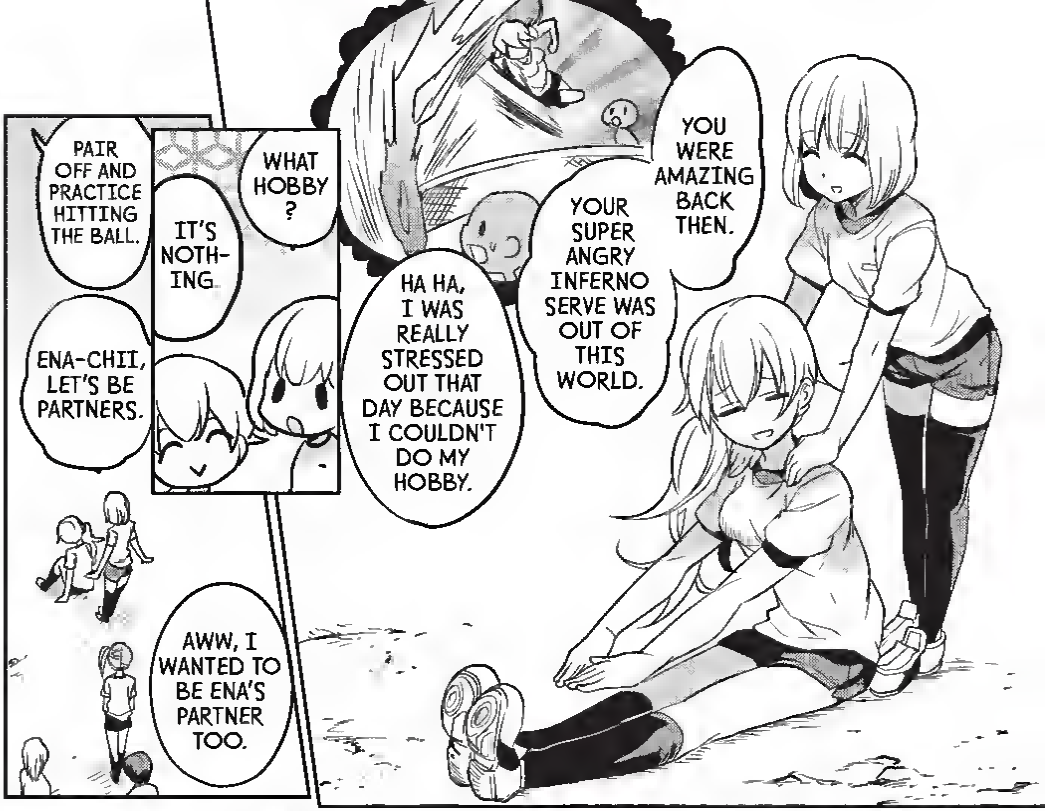
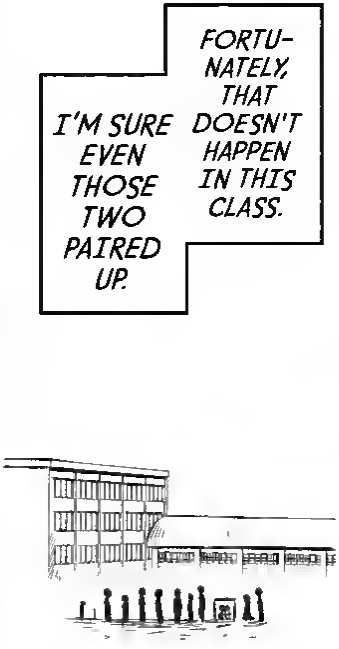
ENA, IF YOU KEEP MAKING PROGRESS LIKE THIS,
WE MIGHT MAKE PLANS TO RELEASE YOUR FIRST SOLO SINGLE.
R-REALLY?!
I MIGHT BE A LITTLE TIED UP WITH SIXTH PERIOD TOMOR-ROW
TOMOR-ROW?
SHALL WE HAVE A MEETING ABOUT IT TOMOR-ROW?

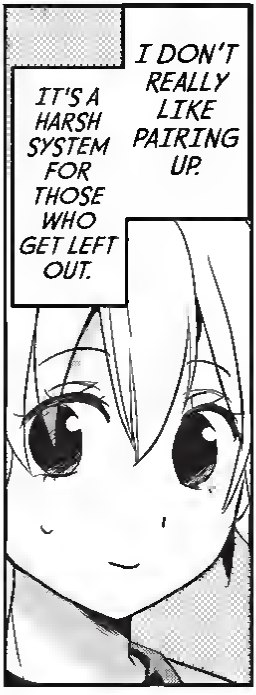
SHIING!
DO YOUR BEST, CLASS A!
LET'S CELEBRATE OUR VICTORY IN THE SPORTS TOURNAMENT LAST MONTH!
TODAY FOR GYM CLASS, WE'LL HAVE A CO-ED GAME OF VOLLEY-BALL.

CHAPTER 6
THE SUN AND GYM CLASS AND KATOU

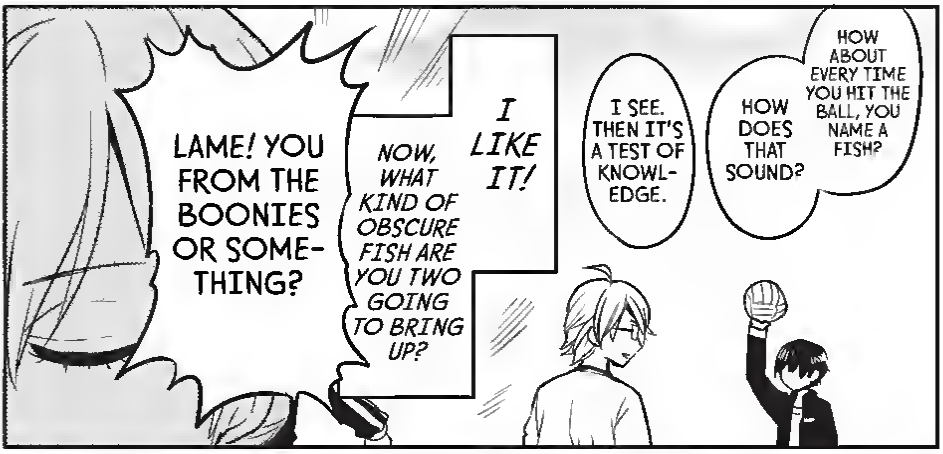

PAIR OFF AND PRACTICE HITTING THE BALL.
WHAT HOBBY?
IT'S NOTHING.
ENA-CHII, LET'S BE PARTNERS.
AWW, I WANTED TO BE ENA'S PARTNER TOO.
HA HA, I WAS REALLY STRESSED OUT THAT DAY BECAUSE I COULDN'T DO MY HOBBY.
YOUR SUPER ANGRY INFERNO SERVE WAS OUT OF THIS WORLD.
YOU WERE AMAZING BACK THEN.

HEH HEH.
MAYBE I SHOULD SCOUT THE AREA A BIT. JUST A BIT...


I'M SURE EVEN THOSE TWO PAIRED UP.
FORTUNATELY, THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN IN THIS CLASS.


I DON'T REALLY LIKE PAIRING UP.
IT'S A HARSH SYSTEM FOR THOSE WHO GET LEFT OUT.

YUP. THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN.
IF WE'RE GOING TO THROW A BALL AROUND, I DON'T SEE WHY WE DON'T TAKE IT TO THE NEXT STEP BALLISTICS
INDEED HUMANS HAVE TROUBLE THINKING OUTSIDE OF THE BOX.
I SEE NO POINT IN DOING THIS THE NORMAL WAY.
OKAY!
SAYAYA, WE'RE SHORT ON PEOPLE COME OVER HERE


LAME! YOU FROM THE BOONIES OR SOMETHING?
NOW, WHAT KIND OF OBSCURE FISH ARE YOU TWO GOING TO BRING UP?
I LIKE IT!
I SEE. THEN IT'S A TEST OF KNOWLEDGE.
HOW DOES THAT SOUND?
HOW ABOUT EVERY TIME YOU HIT THE BALL, YOU NAME A FISH?

WHA?!
KATOU-KUN.
LET ME HANG WITH YOU TWO.
HEY, CLASS PREZ.
HUH? WHA?

HE JUST BUTT IN AND RUINED EVERY-THING!
N-NO, IT'S TOO SOON TO TELL FOR SURE.
KATOU'S PRESENCE MAY HAVE NO IMPACT ON THEM. THEY MIGHT CARRY ON AS USUAL

THREE PEOPLE PLAYING CATCH TOGETHER? IT ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE...
WHAT ABOUT MI-KAGE-KUN?
HE'S GOING FOR IT! HE'S IN THE ZONE!

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN PAIRS BUT WE'RE A GROUP OF THREE! HILARIOUS!
THE BERMU-DA--
GYA HA HA HA HA

THIS IS NO GOOD. HE'S OBVIOUSLY ACTING RESERVED AROUND KATOU.
ALL THREE OF US CAN PARTIC-IPATE.
I DON'T MIND.

I COULDN'T HEAR MIKAGE-KUN AT ALL!
THREE PEOPLE?
THAT'S NOT HILARI-OUS.
HOW'S THAT SUP-POSED TO BE FUNNY?
ENA-CHII?
LIKE, WE TOTALLY HAVE ONE EXTRA!
GYA HA HA
NOW MIKAGE-KUN IS STUMPED TOO.
YOU!
KATOU!
HARMONY
和
...A TRADI-TIONAL ROCK GARDEN IN PERFECT HARMONY WITH ITSELF...
I'D SAY IT'S LIKE...
THIS... THIS TRAGE-DY...

India
HARMONY
...THAT HAD AN INDIAN ELEPHANT...
...CHARGE RIGHT THROUGH IT!
IT'S A TUMULT UNWORTHY OF THE GARDEN.
AN INDIAN ELEPHANT, I TELL YOU!
WHAT ABOUT ELE-PHANTS?
UH... S-SORRY.
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT CLOUD LOOKS LIKE AN INDIAN ELEPHANT
IS THAT RIGHT?
IT SLIPPED OUT
I JUST HAVE TO IGNORE THEM AND FOCUS ON GYM CLASS TODAY
PASSIN' TO YOU, BUD!
PSYCH! GOTCHA

ENA-CHII! YOU HIT IT BACKWARD!
BAM
STOP BOTHERING MIKAGE-KUN.

HOW CLICHÉ WAS THAT?!
OH, MY SHOE-LACE IS UNTIED.
DUCK
DAMMIT.
I JUST...

WAIT, WHAT?
WHY DO YOU HAVE TWO BALLS, PREZ?
SORRY, SORRY MY HAND SLIPPED.
I'M, LIKE, AMAZING AT LEAVING MY SHOES UNTIED

IT KINDA LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT BOOBS.
YOU SHUT THAT FILTHY MOUTH OF YOURS, KATOU.

WHAT ABOUT MIKAGE-KUN? I CAN ALWAYS TRUST HIM TO--

YOU JUST BLABBER ON ABOUT BORING CRAP.
IS THAT ALL YOU CAN THINK OF WHEN YOU SEE SOME-ONE WITH TWO BALLS?

EVEN NARA-KUN...
LET'S GET BACK TO THE GAME
...CAN'T PER-FORM IN THIS SITUA-TION.
NO! HE'S BEEN COMPLETELY DEFLECTED.
THEY'RE DEFENSELESS AGAINST THE K.T. FIELD.

PREZ IS ACTING SO FUNNY.
I'M DYING HERE.
GUFFAW
GUFFAW
GUFFAW
HOW SO?!
SERI-OUSLY! I'M DYING!
THIS IS TOO MUCH
N-NO ...
NARA-KUN IS ON AN-OTHER LEVEL COM-PLETELY
SHALL I TEACH YOU?
IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR EGGS OVER EASY,
YOU HAVE TO HAVE THEM OVER DRY ICE
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THE GLORY OF HIS PUNCH-LINES?
SHOULD I TAKE THE TIME..
...TO TEACH YOU PERSON-ALLY?
PANT
SHALL I TEACH YOU SO WELL...
...THAT YOU BECOME AN ADDICT TOO?
S-SEN-SEI!

ENA-CHII... I MEAN, TAKAHASHI-SAN SEEMS TO BE FEELING SICK!
HUH?
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT. TAKAHASHI, YOU'RE SWEATING A LOT.
WHAT? NO...
YOU CAN LEAVE EARLY.
ENA!
THIS IS JUST...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS TRYING SO HARD
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF! YOU CAN GO HOME
WE'LL BE FINE, ENA
TAKA-HASHI!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO BE LATE TODAY.
WELL, I'M NOT COM-PLAIN-ING
SAEJI-MA...
LET'S CRUSH THIS THING!
I'M GOING TO CHANNEL ALL MY RAGE INTO THIS SINGLE!
SUCH SPIRIT!
THIS GIRL IS UNSTOPPA-BLE.

Q: WHO WERE MOMOTARO'S FRIENDS?

I BELIEVE HE WAS A MAN WITH A HEART BIG ENOUGH TO ACCEPT DEMONS AS HIS FRIENDS.
OR MAYBE IT WAS SOMETHING ELSE. WHAT DO YOU THINK, MIKAGE?

CAN WE DROP THE SUBJECT?
I'M TIRED OF DWELL-ING ON THE PAST.
JAPAN'S BEST

English Digital Edition
Chapter 006

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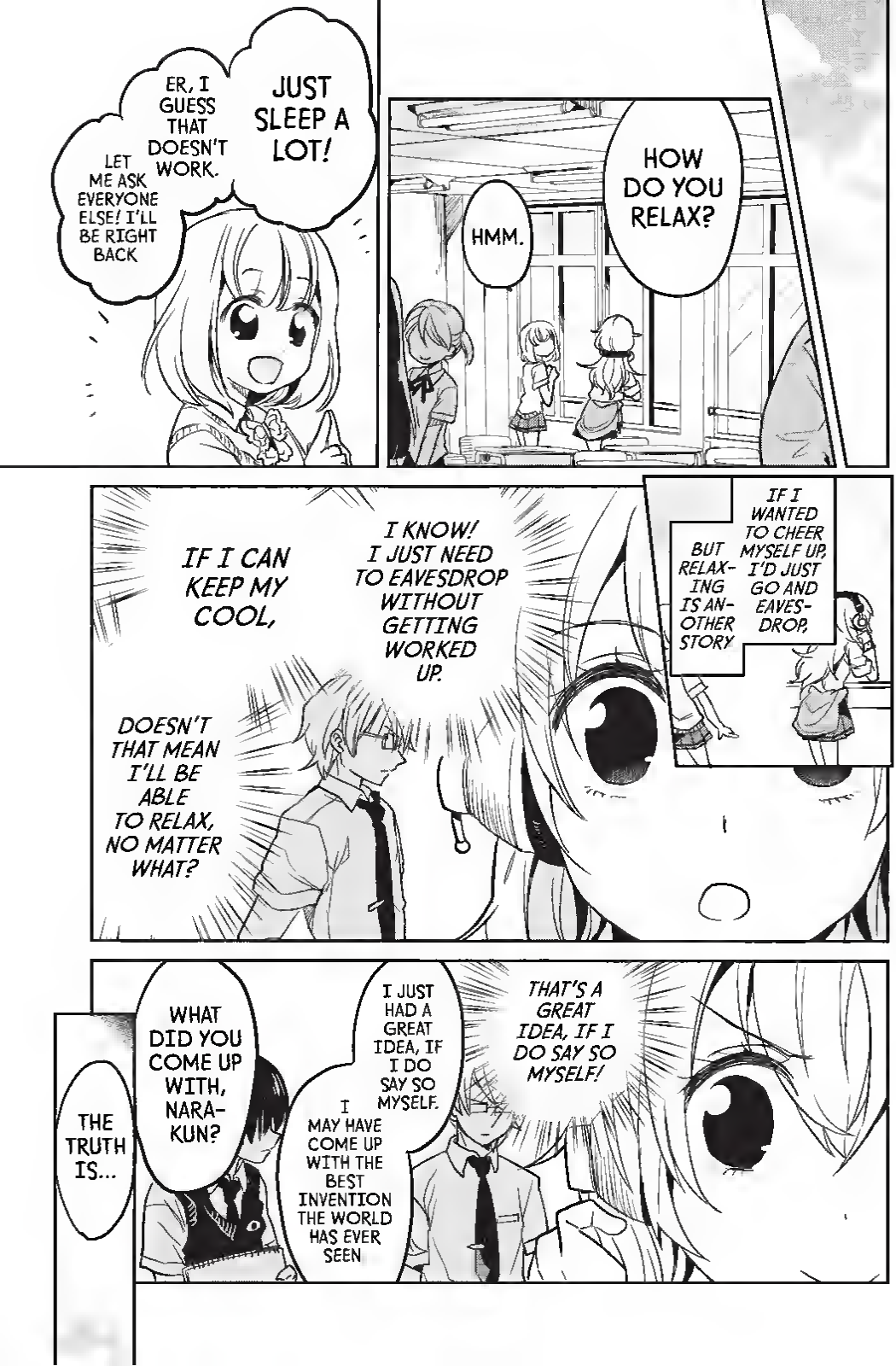
CHAPTER 7
ENA TAKAHASHI, HIGH SCHOOL GIRL AND IDOL,
HAS A CERTAIN QUESTIONABLY HOBBY.
THAT HOBBY WOULD BE EAVESDROPPING.
EVEN THOUGH SHE FEELS GUILTY EAVESDROPPING ON OTHERS,
SHE ENDED UP DOING IT AGAIN TODAY. IT'S LEFT HER IN QUITE A GOOD MOOD.
SHE'S TOO PEPPY.

CHAPTER 7
RELAXING MARCH

PEPPER
WE CAN CONTINUE WHEN YOU GET RID OF THAT EXCESS ENERGY AND RELAX IT TO FULL SPEED.
I HAVE NO BUSINESS WITH A GIRL THAT DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO TURN IT DOWN A NOTCH.
HOW DO YOU RELAX AT FULL SPEED? YOU'RE CONTRA-DICTING YOURSELF.
UH, SAEJIMA, WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
I SAID YOU'RE TOO PEPPY.
YOU'RE JUST GOING IN CIRCLES WITH ALL THAT EXCESS ENERGY


JUST SLEEP A LOT!
ER, I GUESS THAT DOESN'T WORK.
LET ME ASK EVERYONE ELSE! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK
HOW DO YOU RELAX?
HMM.
IF I WANTED TO CHEER MYSELF UP, I'D JUST GO AND EAVES-DROP.
BUT RELAX-ING IS AN-OTHER STORY
I KNOW! I JUST NEED TO EAVESDROP WITHOUT GETTING WORKED UP.
IF I CAN KEEP MY COOL,
DOESN'T THAT MEAN I'LL BE ABLE TO RELAX, NO MATTER WHAT?
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!
I JUST HAD A GREAT IDEA, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.
I MAY HAVE COME UP WITH THE BEST INVENTION THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN
WHAT DID YOU COME UP WITH, NARA-KUN?
THE TRUTH IS...

WASN'T THAT AN ANIME OPENING IN THE '90S?
IT'S A MIRACULOUS SONG FOR A MARCH THAT, JUST BY SINGING IT, ENABLES YOU TO MAKE CROQUETTES.
JOLT
THAT WAS CLOSE. I GOT TOO EXCITED JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.
I JUST COINCI-DENTALLY OVER-HEARD WHAT THEY WERE SAYING.
COINCI-DENTALLY, THIS IS ALSO MY HOBBY BECAUSE IT CHEERS ME UP.
THIS TIME, I HAVE TO KEEP MYSELF CALM.
I JUST NEED TO PUT THE RECIPE INTO LYRICS.
NO ONE WOULD SEE THAT COM-ING, RIGHT?
THAT'S... A NOVEL IDEA INDEED.
CAN YOU TEACH ME THE SONG?

THEN ...
..TAKE YOUR BOILED POTATOES.
...AND MASH THEM UNTIL SMOOTH.
DID ...
IT'S ALREADY STARTING TO SOUND EXACTLY LIKE THE ORIGINAL.
"IT'S TIME! HEAD TO THE KITCHEN."
I GUESS WE SHOULD PREPARE OURSELVES FOR A CLOSE CALL HERE.
I START WITH "IT'S TIME!" TO GIVE IT SOME ZEST.
THEN "HEAD TO THE KITCHEN."
DID YOU SAY POTATOES ?!
WHY DOES THAT PART SURPRISE YOU?
I DON'T CARE WHAT KIND OF TRICKS YOU TRY TO USE, YOU'RE NOT CHANGING ANYONE'S MIND!
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU USE?
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO ROOT SUCH A MOMENT IN THIS ROOT VEGETABLE?
I SEE YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND,
YOU WON'T REGRET YOUR CHOICE, WILL YOU?
HOW COULD YOU MAKE CROQUETTES WITHOUT THEM?
IS IT REALLY OKAY TO GO WITH POTATOES?
THERE'S NOTHING SURPRISING ABOUT THAT, IS THERE?
FIDGET
カタ

THEN WE'LL GO WITH SWEET POTATOES!
HE CHANGED NARA-KUN'S MIND AFTER ALL!
SHUDDER
SHUDDER

SO YOU WON'T GIVE UP THE POTATO IDEA?
POTATO
WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING?
MUST CROQUETTES HAVE POTATOES?
IS THAT CLICHÉ IDEA ALL YOU CAN FOCUS ON?
DON'T YOU HAVE A CREATIVE SIDE?

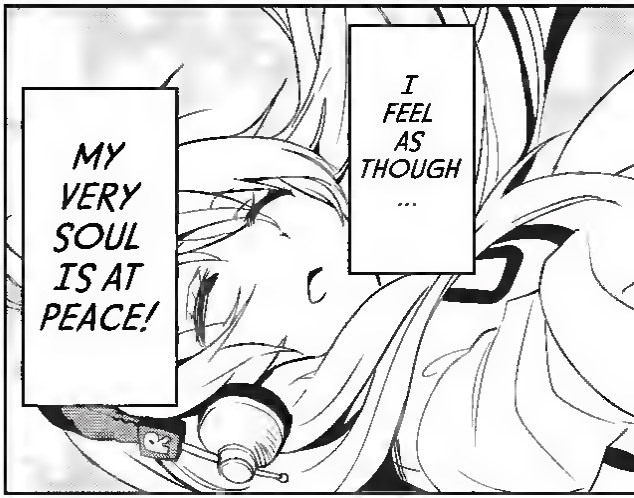
POTATO YOUR HEART AND THROW THE HARDEN AWAY.
OTHER WAY! OTHER WAY!
I MEAN HARDEN YOUR HEART AND THROW THE POTATO AWAY.
POTATO
BE BOLD! WHY DON'T YOU TRY GOING WITH RICE INSTEAD?
I GUESS RICE CROQUETTES ARE TASTY TOO.
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER

GOOD. IT LOOKS LIKE NO ONE NOTICED.
IF ANYONE FINDS OUT ABOUT MY HOBBY, IT'LL BE THE END OF ME. I SHOULD BE CAREFUL.
FREAK!
GROSS!
JOLT
OOPS, THAT WAS CLOSE.
I MIGHT HAVE BEEN ACTING A BIT FUNNY THERE.
I GUESS THIS ISN'T HELPING ME RELAX.
I CAN'T EVEN STOP MYSELF FROM GIVING A RETORT.
IF WE GO WITH RICE, I'LL BE FORCED TO REWORK THE RECIPE.
WE'LL ONLY HAVE TO CHANGE THE BEGINNING A BIT.
WE CAN FOLLOW THE SAME RECIPE AFTER THAT.
AFTER ALL, IT'S EASY TO MAKE CROQUETTES.
FIRST, WE START WITH...

FINDING A GOOD PLOT OF LAND TO GROW THE RICE?
THAT FAR BACK?!
DON'T FORGET TO FIND A CLEAN SOURCE OF WATER.
THIS IS GOING IN A VERY STRANGE DIRECTION.
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO DIG OURSELVES A WELL.
WE'RE GETTING INTO SERIOUS AGRICULTURE HERE.
AND WE'LL NEED FUNDS TO PAY THE WORKERS.
ARE YOU PLANNING A PLANTATION OR SOMETHING?
WHY DO I FEEL SO TRANQUIL?
MY RETORTS ARE TIMED PERFECTLY.
?
IT'S AS IF I'M BEING GENTLY ROCKED BY THIS STRANGE RHYTHM.
IT'S AS IF...
I'VE ACHIEVED THE 1/F FREQUENCY OF PINK NOISE!
IT'S THE SAME HARMONY AS THE TIDE OR A HEARTBEAT!

ARE PEOPLE INCAPABLE OF LIVING ALONE?
NOW WE'VE MOVED ON TO LIFE'S GREATEST QUESTIONS?
WE CAN JUST TAKE OUT A LOAN TO FINANCE OUR BUSINESS
HEAR MI-KAGE-KUN OUT!
I HOPE WE CAN FIND GOOD PEOPLE TO HIRE.
BUT REALLY, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO GET TO THE CROQUETTES?
GIVE ME A CHANCE TO ASK ABOUT CABBAGE LIKE IN THE ORIGINAL.

ENA-CHII!
I ASKED A FEW PEOPLE ABOUT RELAXING.
THEY SAID YOU SHOULD WRITE THE KANJI FOR PERSON ON YOUR HAND, AND THEN--


I FEEL AS THOUGH ...
MY VERY SOUL IS AT PEACE!

IS THAT YOU, BUDDHA?
N-NO! THAT'S ENA-CHII!
I'M OVER-FLOW-ING WITH SERENITY.
...BUT RIGHT NOW MY HEART IS ALREADY AT EASE.
THANK YOU, SAYAYA...
Y-YOU'RE AMAZING, ENA-CHII!
FINDING ITS RHYTHM IS AKIN TO FINDING TRANQUIL-LITY
THE WORLD HAS ITS OWN NATURAL HARMONY
I GET IT.
I WAS WRONG.
CAN YOU JUST GOT BACK TO YOUR NORMAL, PEPPY SELF?

English Digital Edition
Chapter 007

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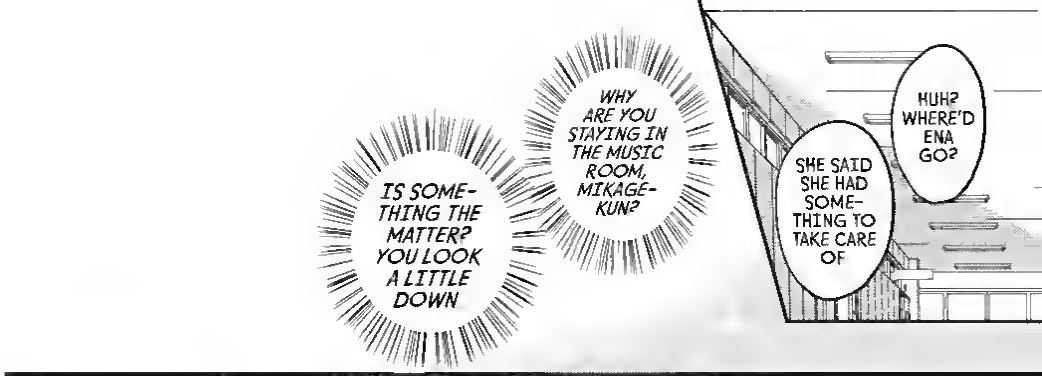
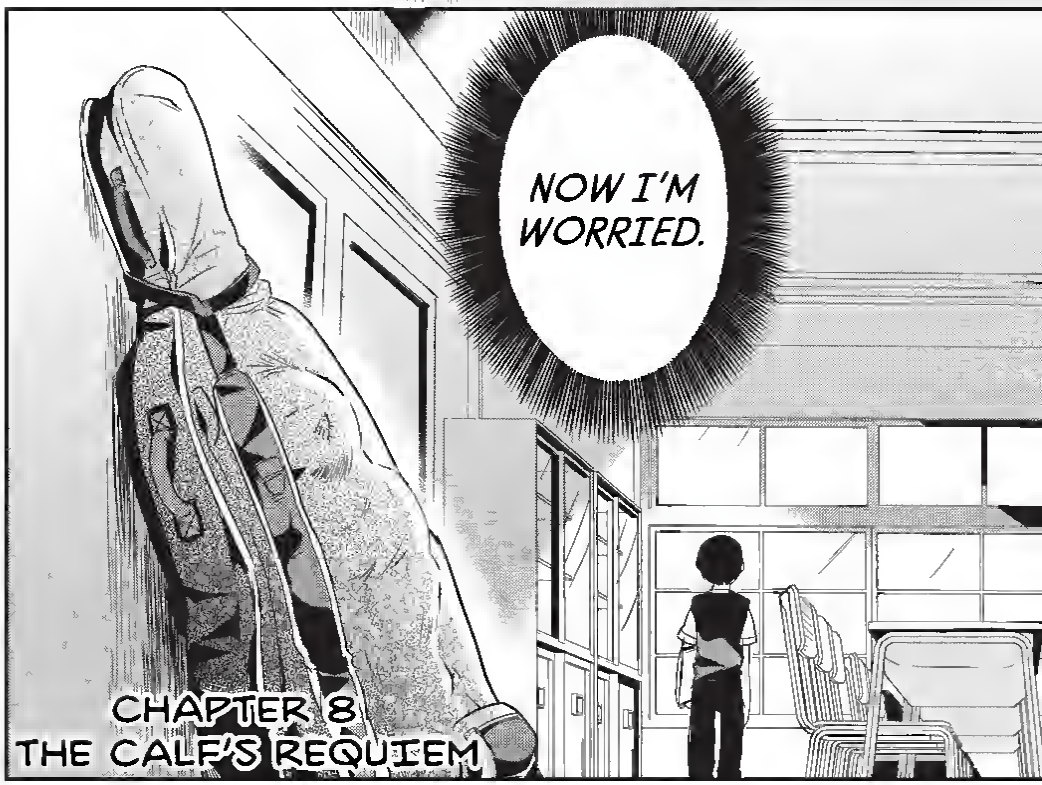
CHAPTER 8
I'LL NOW GIVE THE RESULTS OF THE VOTE.
THE SONG WE'LL SING FOR THE CHOIR COMPETITION WILL BE "PLEASE GIVE ME WINGS."
WE'LL WIN FOR SURE! WE HAVE ENA-CHII, AFTER ALL.
YOU KNOW A CHORAL PIECE ISN'T SOMETHING YOU SING ALONE.
I HEARD YOU WERE RELEAS-ING A SINGLE
I'LL BUY IT FOR SURE!


HUH? WHERE'D ENA GO?
SHE SAID SHE HAD SOME-THING TO TAKE CARE OF
WHY ARE YOU STAYING IN THE MUSIC ROOM, MIKAGE-KUN?
IS SOME-THING THE MATTER? YOU LOOK A LITTLE DOWN


NOW I'M WORRIED.
CHAPTER 8
THE CALF'S REQUIEM

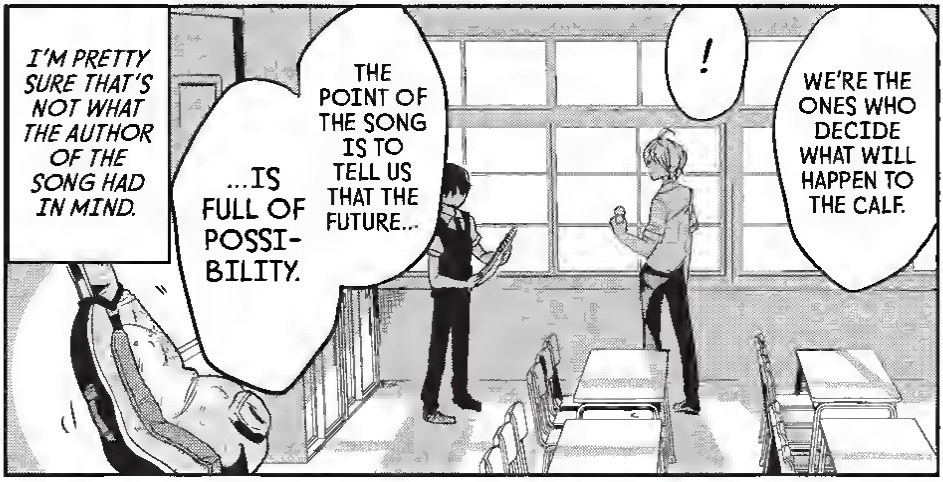
I WONDER WHAT'S ON HIS MIND.
HE'S JUST BEEN STAND-ING THERE SILENTLY THIS WHOLE TIME.

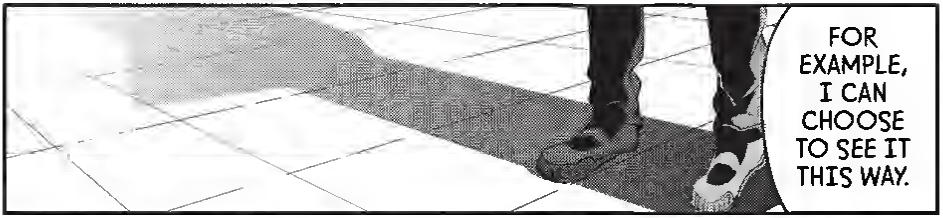
CLATTER
ガラ
I WANT TO HELP HIM OUT SOME-HOW,
BUT HE'LL EITHER THINK I'M SOME SICKO STALKER OR, WORSE, REPORT ME.
HUH? MI-KAGE?
OH, I KNOW THAT VOICE. IT'S NARA-KUN.
NARA-KUN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I-IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CON-CERT.
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANTED TO PRACTICE ALONE, OKAY?
YOU'RE TERRIBLE AT LYING.
EXCEL-LENT, THEY'RE IN TIP-TOP FORM.
AND YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I WAS JUST TAKING A MOMENT TO CALM DOWN
GOOD I'M SURE MIKAGE-KUN WILL FEEL BETTER AFTER TALKING WITH NARA-KUN
IT'S JUST... SOMETHING HAPPENED TODAY THAT I CAN'T ACCEPT.
I'LL WATCH OVER YOU FROM HERE.
WELL, I GUESS I DON'T REALLY HAVE A CHOICE ABOUT LOCA-TION.
AND WHAT MIGHT THAT BE?

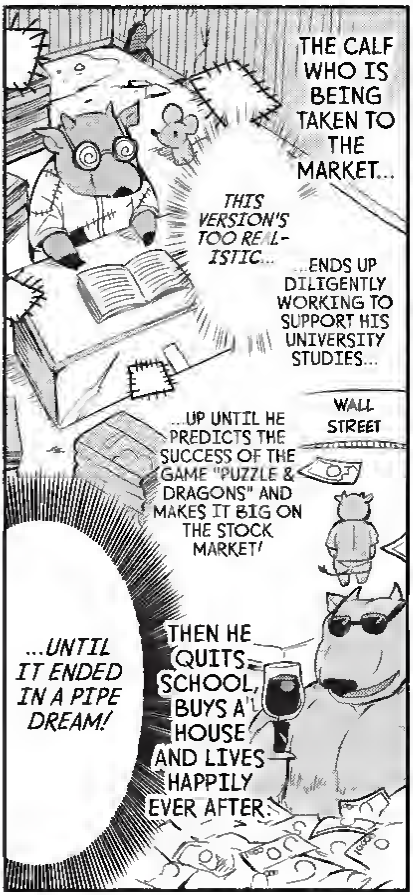
I CAN'T ACCEPT THE CHOICE WE MADE FOR THE CHOIR COMPETITION!
HOW COULD THE CLASS HAVE PASSED OVER THAT SONG ABOUT THE CALF BEING TAKEN AWAY?
"DONNA DONNA"?
FWISH
SO THAT SINGLE VOTE WAS YOURS.
I'VE JUST ADORED "DONNA DONNA" SO MUCH SINCE I WAS A CHILD.
I LOVE IT SO MUCH THAT BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WHEN WE COULD VOTE ON WHAT SONG TO PLAY AT LUNCH
"PRAISE THE EARTH" !
"DONNA DONNA" !
...I'D FILL THE BALLOT BOX UP WITH HUNDREDS OF VOTES FOR "DONNA DONNA."
YOU WERE A PRETTY SCARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLER.
IT'S NOT GOOD TO CHEAT, MIKAGE.
FORGIVE ME. I WAS YOUNG.

IN ANY EVENT, THAT SONG TELLS AN EXTREMELY SAD STORY.
"DONNA DONNA."
IT'S A SAD SONG ABOUT A MOURNFUL CALF ON ITS WAY TO MARKET.
BUT IT'S NOT A SAD SONG AT ALL!
?!
WHY DOES MIKAGE-KUN LIKE IT SO MUCH?
BUT COMPETITIONS ARE ALL ABOUT HOPES AND DREAMS.
WE HAD TO PICK A SONG THAT WOULD PUT THOSE HOPES AND DREAMS ON WINGS AND LET THEM FLY FREE.
WHAT A ROUNDABOUT EXPLANATION
HE THINKS "DONNA DONNA" ISN'T SAD?
ON THE CONTRARY, IT'S AN UPBEAT SONG WITH A HOPEFUL MESSAGE.
H-HOW SO?

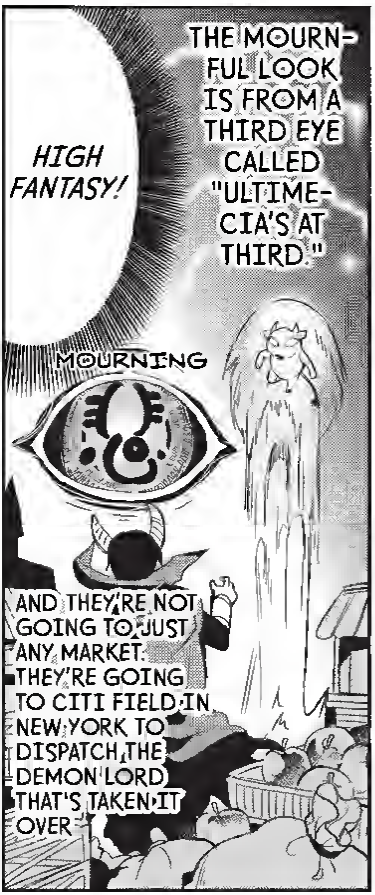
IT'S TRUE THAT THE CALF ...
...IS BEING TAKEN TO THE MARKET,
BUT THERE'S NOTHING THAT SAYS IT'LL BE BUTCHERED.
IN OTHER WORDS,
THE CALF'S FUTURE RESTS IN THE POWER OF OUR VERY OWN IMAGI-NATIONS!
I DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING!
FWOOSH


I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S NOT WHAT THE AUTHOR OF THE SONG HAD IN MIND.
...IS FULL OF POSSI-BILITY.
THE POINT OF THE SONG IS TO TELL US THAT THE FUTURE...
!
WE'RE THE ONES WHO DECIDE WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE CALF.


FOR EXAMPLE, I CAN CHOOSE TO SEE IT THIS WAY.


THE CALF WHO IS BEING TAKEN TO THE MARKET...
THIS VERSION'S TOO RE-ISTIC...
...ENDS UP DILIGENTLY WORKING TO SUPPORT HIS UNIVERSITY STUDIES...
WALL STREET
...UP UNTIL HE PREDICTS THE SUCCESS OF THE GAME "PUZZLE & DRAGONS" AND MAKES IT BIG ON THE STOCK MARKET!
...UNTIL IT ENDED IN A PIPE DREAM!
THEN HE QUITS SCHOOL, BUYS A HOUSE AND LIVES HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

I-I'LL TRY THINKING OF SOMETHING TOO
OF COURSE, NARA-KUN

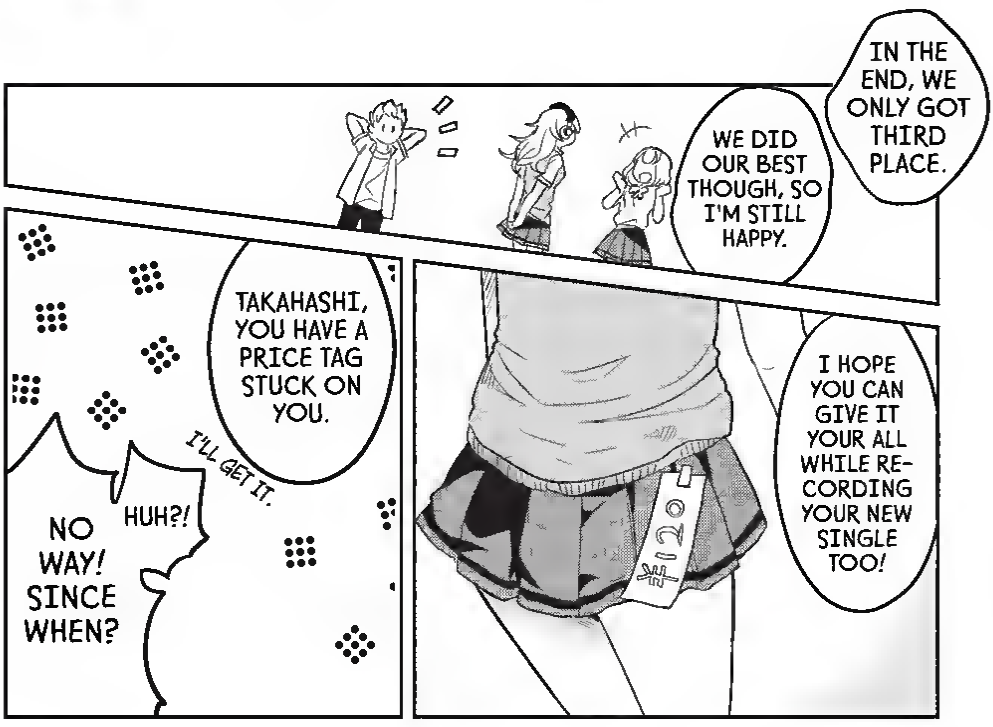

HIGH FANTASY!
THE MOURNFUL LOOK IS FROM A THIRD EYE CALLED "ULTIMECIA'S AT THIRD."
MOURNING
AND THEY'RE NOT GOING TO JUST ANY MARKET. THEY'RE GOING TO CITI FIELD IN NEW YORK TO DISPATCH THE DEMON LORD THAT'S TAKEN IT OVER.

EX-ACTLY.
IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW WE LOOK AT THINGS
GOOD ONE, NARA-KUN! IT'S SO UPLIFTING.

ANYWAY, WHO EVEN SAID IT TOOK PLACE IN MODERN TIMES?
IT COULD BE A TIME WHERE HUMANITY IS ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION.
IT'S POST-APOCALYPTIC "DONNA DONNA"!
WE NEED TO SURVIVE TOO!
GIVE US THOSE CALVES!
GOT YOU!
NOW YOU COULD INTER-PRET IT LIKE THIS...
"I FEEL SO SORRY FOR THEM."
"IN THE END, US CALVES ARE THE WIN-NERS."
"THOSE POOR, PITIFUL HUMANS..."
NOW WE'RE PITYING THE HUMANS?

I'M HAPPY ENOUGH JUST TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT.
I WOULD HAVE VOTED FOR "DONNA DONNA" INSTEAD OF "PLEASE GIVE ME WINGS"
IF ONLY I HAD KNOWN SOONER,
THIS IS MOST UNFORTUNATE
IS THIS THE BASS THEY WANTED US TO TAKE TO THE SCHOOL MARKET?
ワ ワ
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
I WANT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT IT TOO!
SURE, IF YOU THINK I CAN HELP.
ANYWAY, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I WANT TO TALK ABOUT. DO YOU HAVE TIME?
HAVE THEY STARTED SETTING IT UP YET?
WAIT.
ON WE GO.
HUH?
WAIT! THEY WERE STILL TALKING!
KLUNK
KLUNK
コ
ト
コ
ト
KLUNK
THEY'RE TAKING ME AWAY!
THEY'RE GOING TO SELL ME! I'M NOT A CALF!
AHHH!

CHARITY FLEA MARKET
HUH?
THERE'S NOTHING IN THE CASE?
I'M SO SORRY!
I'LL BRING THE REAL ONE BY LATER.


IN THE END, WE ONLY GOT THIRD PLACE.
WE DID OUR BEST THOUGH, SO I'M STILL HAPPY.
I HOPE YOU CAN GIVE IT YOUR ALL WHILE RECORDING YOUR NEW SINGLE TOO!
TAKAHASHI, YOU HAVE A PRICE TAG STUCK ON YOU.
I'LL GET IT.
HUH?!
NO WAY! SINCE WHEN?

English Digital Edition
Chapter 008

Takahashi-san is listening.
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Yu Hokuo

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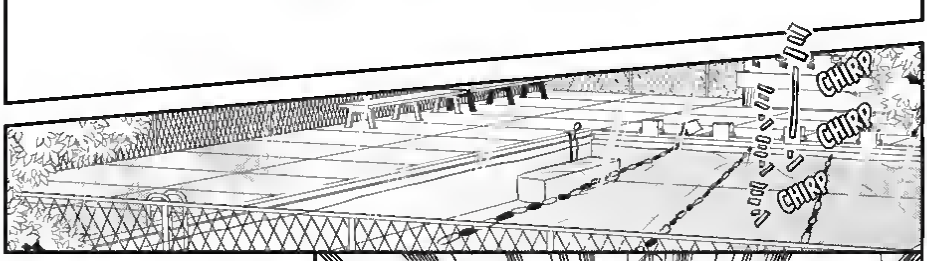
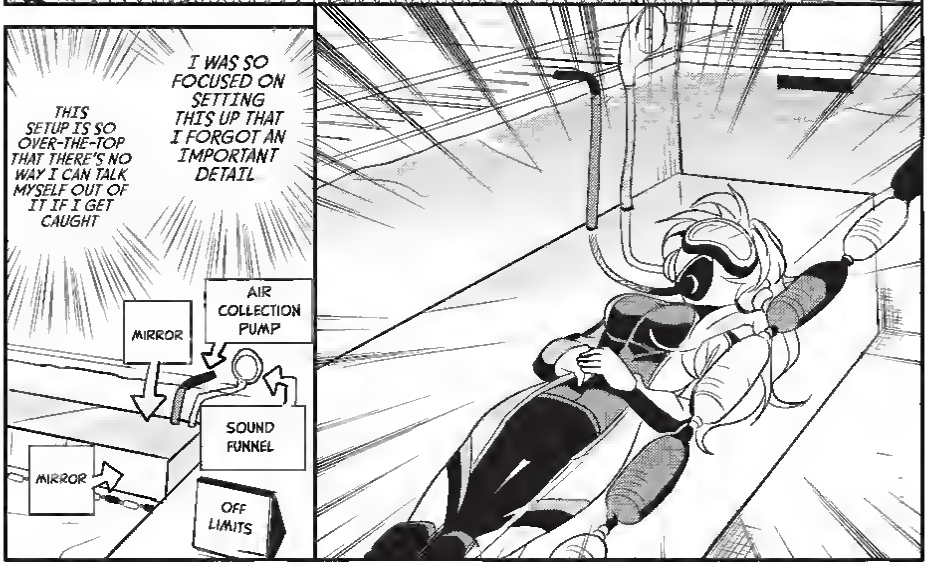
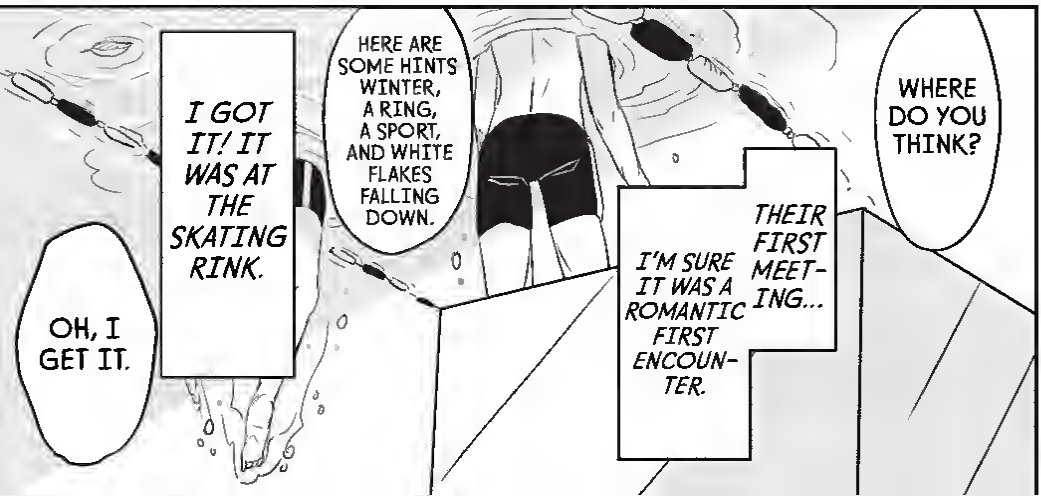
WOW!
SO MY DEBUT SINGLE IS GOING TO BE A LOVE SONG?
RIGHT.
IT'S A SONG ABOUT UNREQUITED LOVE,
SO IT'S A SAD ONE.
CHAPTER 9
SUMMER LOVE IS FULL OF TEARS
RIGHT!
LET'S PUT OUR ALL INTO MAKING THIS TRACK A SUCCESS.
RIGHT!
I WANT YOU TO PUT ALL OF YOUR EMOTION INTO THIS.
HUH?
WELL, I GUESS THE BEST WAY IS TO DRAW FROM YOUR OWN ROMANTIC EXPERIENCES.

I WAS UP ALL NIGHT READING SHOJO MANGA, BUT I STILL DON'T HAVE A CLUE.
I MEAN, I CAN'T REALLY THINK OF ANYTHING I'VE EXPERIENCED THAT'S ROMANTIC.
A TOMBOY DOESN'T COUNT AS A SISTER
I HAVE TO FIGURE SOMETHING OUT!
NOTHING SAYS LOVE LIKE SUMMER.
YEAH, SUMMER IS THE SEASON OF LOVE.
MIKAGE, LET'S CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION AT THE POOL.
THE POOL'S OPEN?
I CAN SENSE THINGS HEATING UP
...

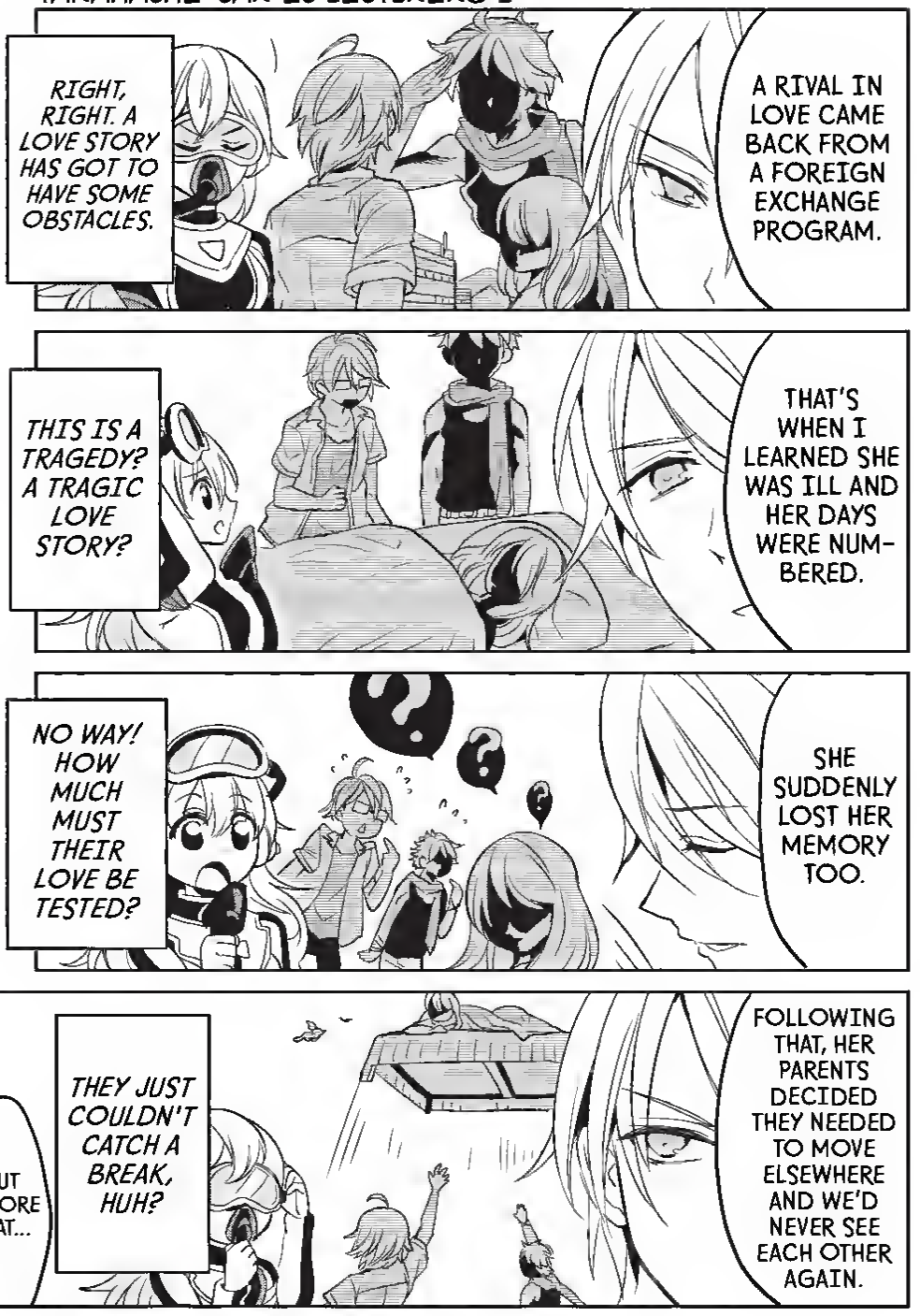

CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP


I WAS SO FOCUSED ON SETTING THIS UP THAT I FORGOT AN IMPORTANT DETAIL
THIS SETUP IS SO OVER-THE-TOP THAT THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TALK MYSELF OUT OF IT IF I GET CAUGHT
MIRROR
AIR COLLECTION PUMP
SOUND FUNNEL
MIRROR
OFF LIMITS

HERE IT COMES!
SO WHERE DID YOU MET YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
IT'S JUST SOME PROFES-SIONAL RECON.
THAT'S RIGHT! THIS IS FOR WORK!
I CAN'T AFFORD TO SCREW UP MY FIRST SINGLE.
BUT WHAT CHOICE DID I HAVE?


OH, I GET IT.
I GOT IT! IT WAS AT THE SKATING RINK.
HERE ARE SOME HINTS WINTER, A RING, A SPORT, AND WHITE FLAKES FALLING DOWN.
I'M SURE IT WAS A ROMANTIC FIRST ENCOUN-TER.
THEIR FIRST MEET-ING...
WHERE DO YOU THINK?

THE NEW YEAR'S PROFESSIONAL SUMO TOURNAMENT!
CORRECT!
AH, HE GOT ME!
W-WELL, I DIDN'T WANT A STRAIGHTFORWARD STORY ANYWAY.
STILL, I NEVER THOUGHT NARA-KUN WOULD HAVE A ROMANTIC STORY TO BEGIN WITH.
EXCEPT, I DON'T MEAN IT IN A MEAN WAY.
NARA-KUN'S JUST THE TYPE I CAN'T IMAGINE DATING.
IT ALL STARTED THE VERY NEXT DAY.
WE MET IN WINTER, BUT WE DIDN'T START DATING UNTIL SUMMER.


RIGHT, RIGHT. A LOVE STORY HAS GOT TO HAVE SOME OBSTACLES.
A RIVAL IN LOVE CAME BACK FROM A FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM.
THIS IS A TRAGEDY? A TRAGIC LOVE STORY?
THAT'S WHEN I LEARNED SHE WAS ILL AND HER DAYS WERE NUMBERED.
NO WAY! HOW MUCH MUST THEIR LOVE BE TESTED?
SHE SUDDENLY LOST HER MEMORY TOO.
BUT BEFORE THAT...
THEY JUST COULDN'T CATCH A BREAK, HUH?
FOLLOWING THAT, HER PARENTS DECIDED THEY NEEDED TO MOVE ELSEWHERE AND WE'D NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.

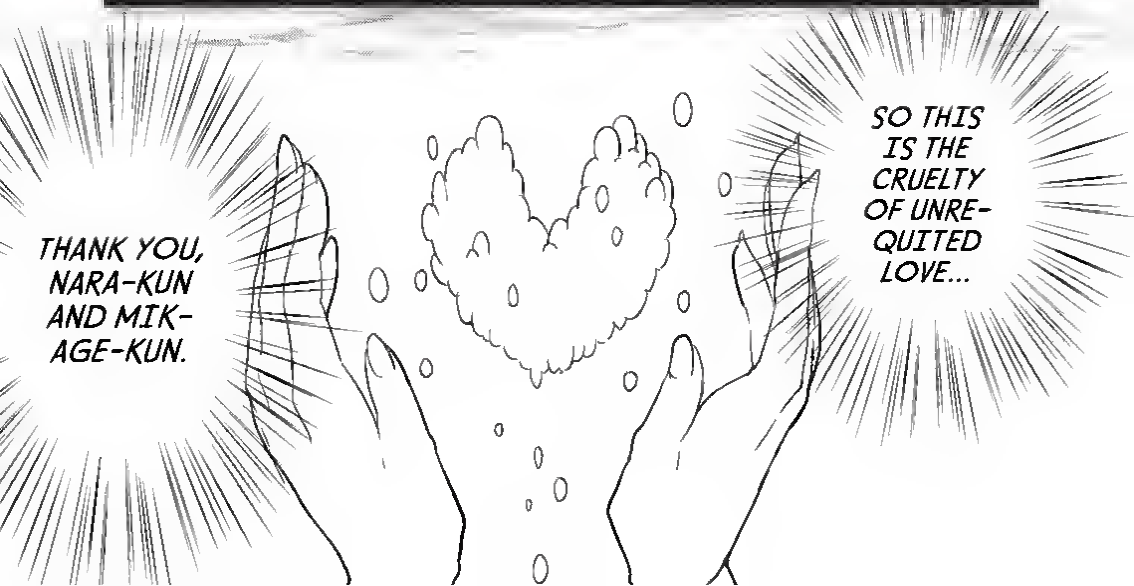
A CAR SUDDENLY SWERVED RIGHT AT US!
IT'S LIKE THE ROYAL STRAIGHT FLUSH OF TRAGEDIES!
THIS IS FAR TOO DRAMA-TIC FOR ONE DAY.
THIS ISN'T THE START OF A LOVE STORY; IT'S THE CLIMAX!
RIVAL
ILLNESS
AMNESIA
PARENTS
CAR ACCIDENT
TWELVE YEARS AGO?!
YEAH I'VE HEARD THIS ALL BEFORE.
IT HAPPENED TWELVE YEARS AGO, RIGHT?

PUTT PUTT
YOU SHOULD HAVE MENTIONED THAT DETAIL EARLIER.
AT...
AT NURSERY SCHOOL?!
...
OH, I GET IT. THIS IS WHERE THE LOVE STORY REALLY STARTS.
THEN AFTER TWELVE YEARS,
YOU FINALLY MET AGAIN IN SUMMER.
RIGHT.
SHE'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT NOW.
HUH?
I CAN'T GET USED TO THE KIND OF LANGUAGE SHE USES.
SHE WEARS SO MUCH MAKEUP YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE HER FACE.
SHE WEARS FLASHY, BRIGHT CLOTHES TOO
GUESS WHAT SHE SAID TO ME.
DON'T TELL ME SHE'S A HOOD-LUM NOW!

"IT HAS BEEN QUITE SOME TIME, HAS IT NOT?"
MAIKO HAAAAN!!!
I CAN UNDERSTAND NOW...
...WHY HER MAKEUP IS THICK AND SHE TALKS ODDLY.
SHE'S CHANGED SO MUCH.
AND SO WE ENDED UP GOING OUT ONCE AGAIN.
OH!
OH?
STILL, MY FEELINGS MUST HAVE LED ME TO HER.
I COULD DO NAUGHT BUT CONFESS SUCH FEELINGS.
BUT THEN SHE FOUND SOME OTHER GUY SHE LIKED OR SOMETHING,
SO WE JUST KIND OF BROKE UP.
JUST LIKE THAT?
AFTER ALL THAT DRAMA YOU WENT THROUGH?
YOU JUST BROKE UP?!

WELL,
ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH IT ENDING THAT WAY?
I DON'T BELIEVE DATING IS THE ONLY WAY TO EXPRESS ONE'S LOVE.
I'M HAPPY JUST BEING ABLE TO PRAY FOR HER HAPPINESS.
IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT?

THAT'S... THAT'S TRUE LOVE!



I THINK I CAN SING MY LOVE SONG NOW.
ENA-CHII IS AMAZ-ING!
SHE'S SINGING IT PER-FECTLY.
I AGREE.
I'M SURE OF IT NOW. ENA CAN REACH THE TOP OF THE IDOL WORLD!
THERE WE GO.
I GOT EVERY-THING SORTED OUT AT THE POOL.
THIS IS PRETTY FUN!
YOU'RE GOING TO WIN "BEST NEW LIGHT NOVEL AUTHOR" FOR SURE.

English Digital Edition
Chapter 009

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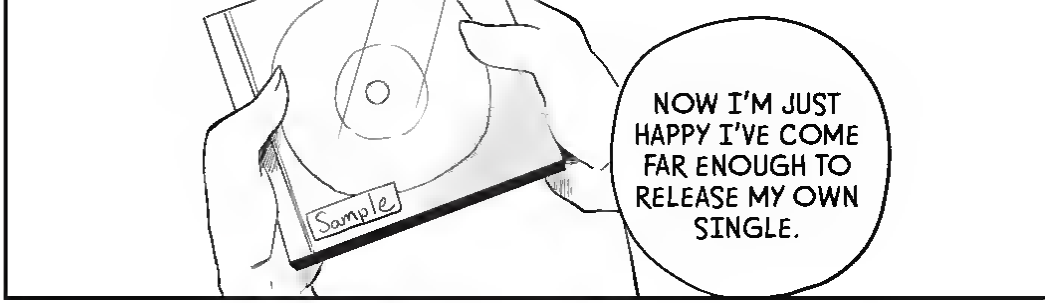
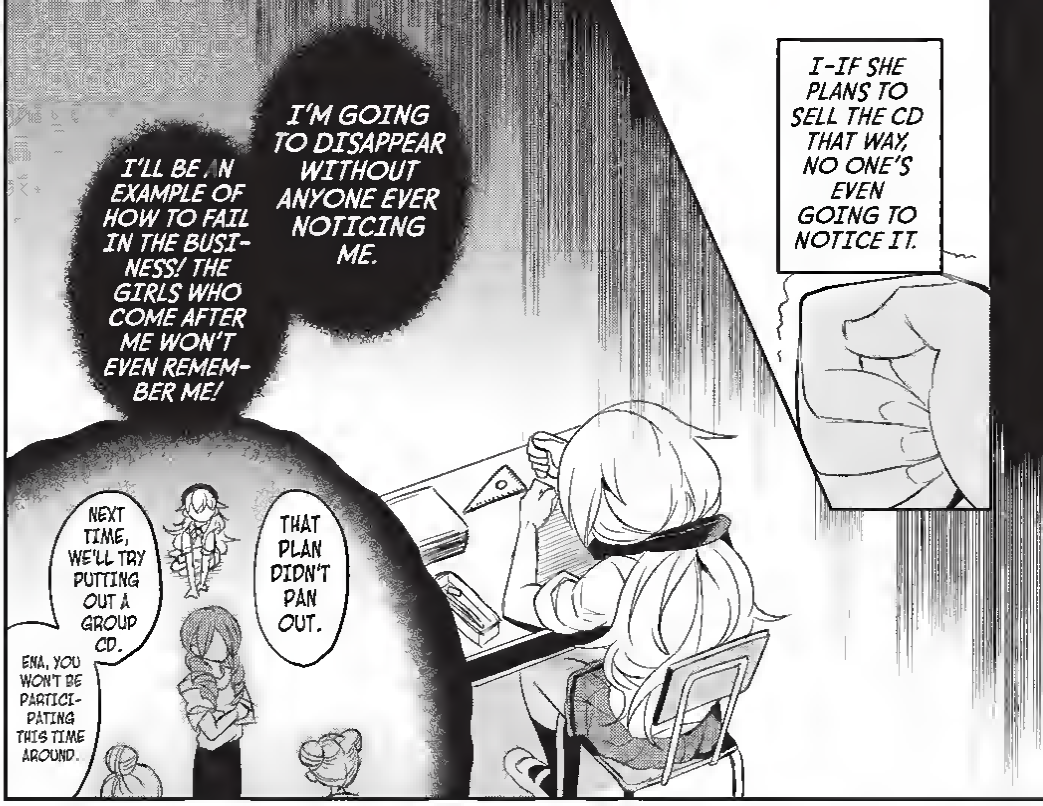
CHAPTER 10
ENA TAKAHASHI, THIRD-YEAR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT
SHOW BUSINESS? ME?
WELL, I GUESS I COULD HEAR YOU OUT.
I'M SURE YOU'RE MORE THAN CAPABLE!
YOU COULD BE A PERFORMER THAT GIVES PEOPLE HOPE.
HOPE?
I COULD GIVE PEOPLE HOPE?
AND THAT'S HOW I GOT SO INTO IT.
FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I THOUGHT SHE HAD DUPED ME.
Single

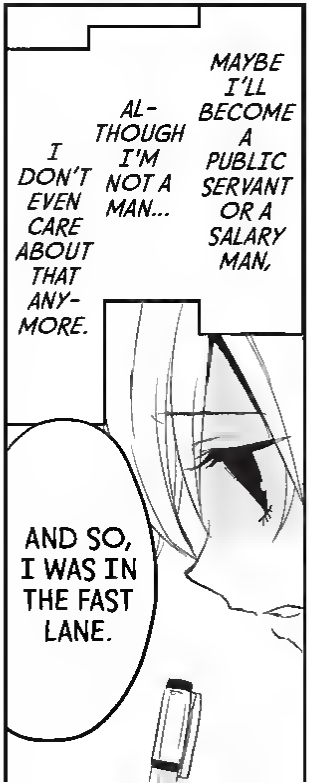


CHAPTER 10
RELYING ON YOU

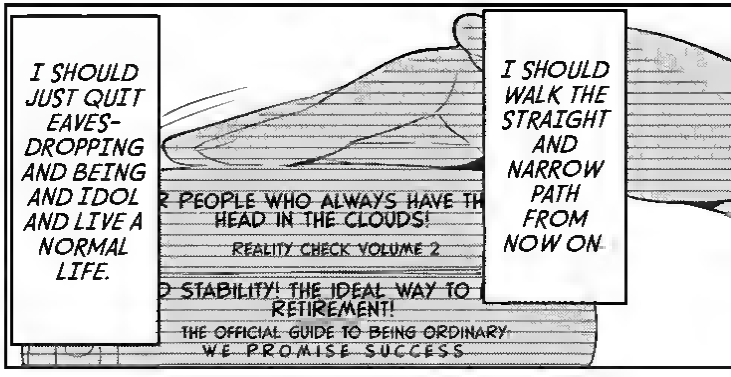
ENA, I DON'T WANT TO RELY ON THOSE KIND OF TACTICS.
I GUESS IT'LL SELL IF I PROMISE TO SHAKE HANDS WITH PEOPLE WHO BUY IT.
BUT DO PEOPLE EVEN BUY CDS THESE DAYS?
WE **WON'T** BE DOING THAT.
A JOB THAT GIVES HOPE...
I FINALLY DID IT.

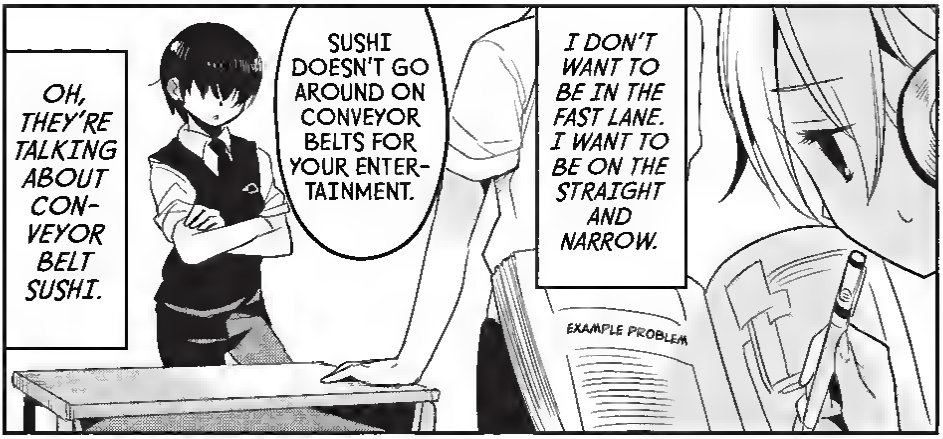
WHILE LEARNING THE TRICKS OF THE TRADE WITH YOU,
THERE'S ONE THING I'VE BECOME CERTAIN OF.
YOU'RE THE FIRST IDOL I'VE EVER PRODUCED.
HUH?
B-BUT, SAEJIMA! I THINK THIS IS A GOOD WAY TO GIVE BACK TO MY--
AN IDOL SHOULD PROVE HERSELF WITH HER MUSIC!
I CALL IT THE "YOU KNOW IT WHEN YOU HEAR IT" CONCEPT.
NO HAND-SHAKES!
NO PRE-ORDER BONUS-ES!
AND NO BROAD-CASTS!
HUUUH?!
I WILL NOT BACK DOWN!
WITH YOUR VOICE, WE CAN MAKE THIS WORK.
RIGHT NOW, WE'RE CREAT-ING A NEW ERA!
AN ERA WHERE PEOPLE WANT IDOL CDS!
THERE'S NO WAY.
THERE'S JUST NO WAY!

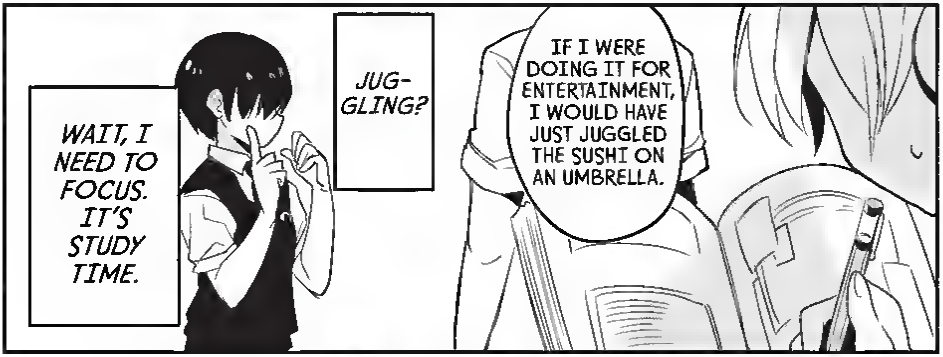

I'M GOING TO DISAPPEAR WITHOUT ANYONE EVER NOTICING ME.
I'LL BE AN EXAMPLE OF HOW TO FAIL IN THE BUSINESS! THE GIRLS WHO COME AFTER ME WON'T EVEN REMEMBER ME!
I-IF SHE PLANS TO SELL THE CD THAT WAY, NO ONE'S EVEN GOING TO NOTICE IT.
THAT PLAN DIDN'T PAN OUT.
NEXT TIME, WE'LL TRY PUTTING OUT A GROUP CD.
ENA, YOU WON'T BE PARTICIPATING THIS TIME AROUND.


I DON'T EVEN CARE ABOUT THAT ANYMORE.
ALTHOUGH I'M NOT A MAN...
MAYBE I'LL BECOME A PUBLIC SERVANT OR A SALARY MAN,
AND SO, I WAS IN THE FAST LANE.

I'M DONE FOR.
I WAS STUPID TO THINK THIS DREAM WOULD COME TRUE.

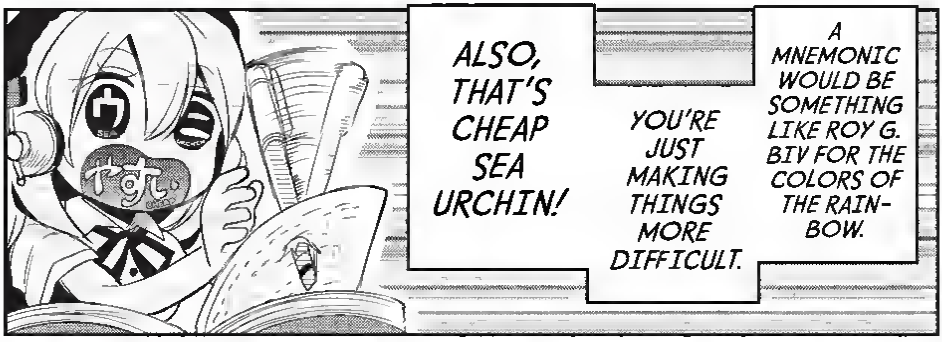

I SHOULD JUST QUIT EAVESDROPPING AND BEING AND IDOL AND LIVE A NORMAL LIFE.
I SHOULD WALK THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW PATH FROM NOW ON.
R PEOPLE WHO ALWAYS HAVE TH
HEAD IN THE CLOUDS!
REALITY CHECK VOLUME 2
D STABILITY! THE IDEAL WAY TO
RETIREMENT!
THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO BEING ORDINARY
WE PROMISE SUCCESS

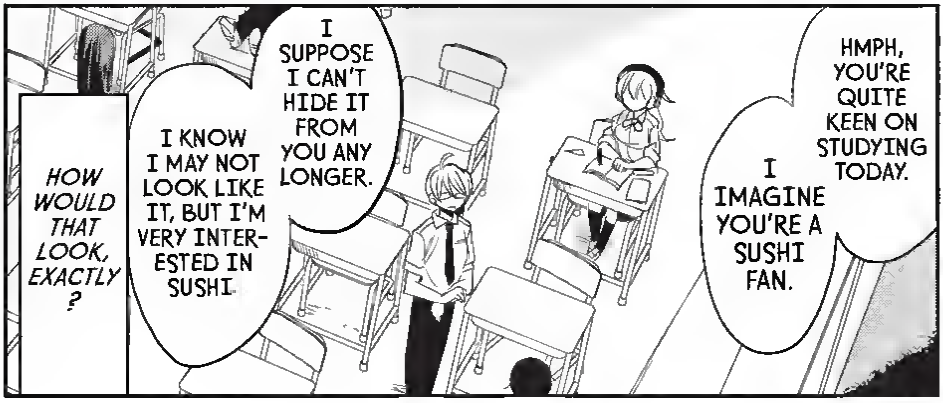

OH, THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT CONVEYOR BELT SUSHI.
SUSHI DOESN'T GO AROUND ON CONVEYOR BELTS FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT.
I DON'T WANT TO BE IN THE FAST LANE. I WANT TO BE ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW.
EXAMPLE PROBLEM


WAIT, I NEED TO FOCUS. IT'S STUDY TIME.
JUGGLING?
IF I WERE DOING IT FOR ENTERTAINMENT, I WOULD HAVE JUST JUGGLED THE SUSHI ON AN UMBRELLA.

I... MUST STUDY.
BY THE WAY, CONVEYOR BELT SUSHI FIRST STARTED IN 1958.
I JUST HAPPEN TO OVERHEAR THEM!
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT! I JUST SORT OF HAPPEN TO OVERHEAR.
1958?
I THINK I CAN COME UP WITH AN EASY MNEMONIC FOR THAT YEAR.
OH YEAH?

HOW IS THAT A MNEMONIC?!
NOW, WHAT YEAR DID CONVEYOR BELT SUSHI FIRST START?
TAKASHI-KUN BOUGHT SEA URCHIN SUSHI FOR 19 YEN AND EGG SUSHI FOR 58 YEN.
SHINK


ALSO, THAT'S CHEAP SEA URCHIN!
YOU'RE JUST MAKING THINGS MORE DIFFICULT.
A MNEMONIC WOULD BE SOMETHING LIKE ROY G. BIV FOR THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW.


HOW WOULD THAT LOOK, EXACTLY?
I KNOW I MAY NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT I'M VERY INTERESTED IN SUSHI.
I SUPPOSE I CAN'T HIDE IT FROM YOU ANY LONGER.
I IMAGINE YOU'RE A SUSHI FAN.
HMPH, YOU'RE QUITE KEEN ON STUDYING TODAY.

THEN ALLOW ME TO TEACH YOU ALL THE KANJI USED FOR FISH IN HIGH CLASS SUSHI RESTAURANTS.
UNLIKE NORMAL ONES, HIGH CLASS RESTAURANTS WRITE THEIR MENU ENTIRELY IN KANJI. IT WOULD SERVE YOU WELL TO LEARN THEM
I CAN ONLY DREAM OF A CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE SUCH LUXURY,
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO LEARN THEM.
OF COURSE. LEAVE THE KANJI TO ME.
WE'LL START WITH THE BASICS.
HOW ABOUT THIS? IT'S *FISH* WITH TWO CHARACTERS FOR EARTH BESIDE IT.
SAUMON, RIGHT?
FRENCH?
THAT'S SALMON OR SAKÉ.
NEXT, TAKE THE CHARACTER FOR FISH AND PUT *STIFF* BESIDE IT
A STIFF FISH, HUH?
OH, I KNOW THIS ONE TOO. I THINK IT'S...

IS IT CALLED "WAKAME'S BROTHER"?
CLOSE, BUT NO CIGAR!
SHINK
シンボーブ!!
I MEAN, THAT BASICALLY MEANS HE KNOWS THE ANSWER, RIGHT?
WHY DOESN'T HE JUST SAY IT?
SLOW AND STEADY WINS THE RACE? THAT CAN'T BE IT.
COMPLETELY WRONG. THE ANSWER IS SKIPJACK TUNA OR KATSUO.
DON'T YOU SEE HOW CLOSE HE WAS?
KATSUO, HUH? I NEED TO STUDY MORE.
THIS ONE'S HARD. IT'S FISH WITH SPRING BESIDE IT.
鰆
SPRING? THAT'S ALWAYS A JOYOUS TIME OF YEAR.
WHAT DOES EVERYBODY EAT WHEN THEY CELEBRATE?

THAT'S NOT EVEN A FISH!
...CAKE?
HA HA! WHY WOULD YOU FIND CAKE ON A CONVEYOR BELT FOR SUSHI?
WHIRL WHIRL WHIRL
IT'S JAPANESE SPANISH MACKEREL OR SAWARA.
NARA-KUN, YOU CAN FIND CAKE AT CONVEYOR BELT SUSHI SHOPS THESE DAYS.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN IT HAPPEN BEFORE.
ARE YOU THE TYPE THAT HATES SEEING ANYTHING ON THE CONVEYOR BELT THAT'S NOT SUSHI?
DO YOU HATE IT WHEN THEY MAKE THINGS LIKE HAMBURGER ROLLS OR CAKE?
NO, I'M NOT LIKE THAT.
I LIKE TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND WHEN IT COMES TO FOOD.
スコッ
SHINK

I DON'T CARE WHAT'S RIDING THOSE BELTS, BE IT FISH OR MEAT!
I DON'T EVEN CARE IF IT'S CAKE OR BREAD!
AS LONG AS IT'S DELICIOUS, THEY CAN PUT ANYTHING ON THE CONVEYOR BELT.

IT'D BE FINE EVEN IF EVERYTHING THERE WAS BREAD.
BREAD? SOUNDS GOOD.

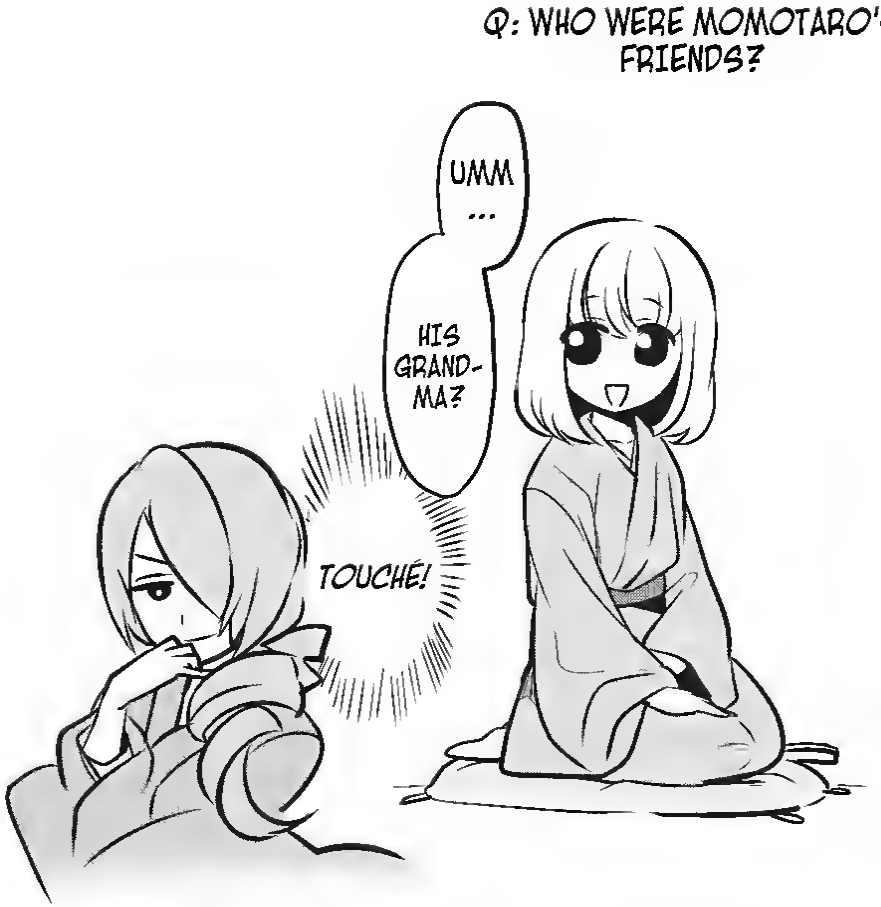
NO
NO, IT WOULDN'T!

..THAT ONLY SUSHI RESTAURANTS PUT THEIR FOOD ON CONVEYOR BELTS.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT IT WAS SUCH A SHAME...
THAT'S NOT A SUSHI SHOP; IT'S A BAKERY!
THINK OF THE POOR PEOPLE WHO'D GO FOR SUSHI AND GET STUCK WITH A BREAD-FEST.

THIS IS STARTING TO SOUND LIKE A THEME PARK.
WE'LL PUT AN ENTIRE FOOD COURT ON A CONVEYOR BELT!
LET'S START A FOOD CONVEYOR REVOLUTION!
LET'S PUT ANY AND ALL FOODS ON CONVEYOR BELTS!
BUT WAIT, MIKAGE!
I CAN SEE HOW YOU'D COME TO THAT CONCLUSION...
MAYBE WE'D BE BETTER OFF JUST PUTTING HUMANITY ON CONVEYOR BELTS.
IN A WAY, WE'RE ALREADY ON A CONVEYOR, NARA-KUN.
WE HUMANS ARE ALREADY ON A CONSTANTLY MOVING CONVEYOR DEVICE!
HUH?

WE'VE BEEN ON IT FOR MILLENNIA BECAUSE THE EARTH IS ALWAYS IN MOTION, AND WE'RE ON IT!
S-SO THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT!
WE'RE SPINNING AROUND THE SOLAR SYSTEM STARTING THE DAY WE'RE BORN.
WE'RE STUCK IN A PREDE-TERMINED ORBIT OUR WHOLE LIVES!
SO WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO LIMIT THEIR LIVES EVEN FURTHER?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I, ENA TAKAHASHI, WANT FOR MYSELF. WHO NEEDS THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW?

I'LL STRUGGLE WITH ALL MY MIGHT.
I'LL DO EVERY-THING IN MY POWER TO DO SOME-THING ONLY I CAN...
...AND THAT'S TO BE AN IDOL THAT CAN GIVE PEOPLE HOPE!
AND TO EAVESDROP ON CON-VERSATIONS THAT GIVE ME HOPE.
ER, I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T STRUGGLE WITH ALL MY MIGHT TO EAVESDROP.
THAT WOULD JUST MAKE ME A FREAK!


Q: WHO WERE MOMOTARO'S FRIENDS?
UMM ...
HIS GRAND-MA?
TOUCHÉ!

English Digital Edition
Chapter 010

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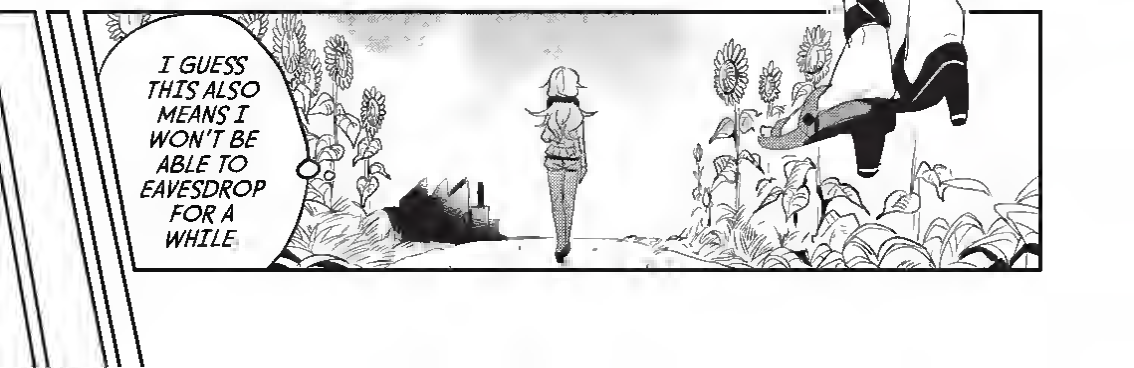
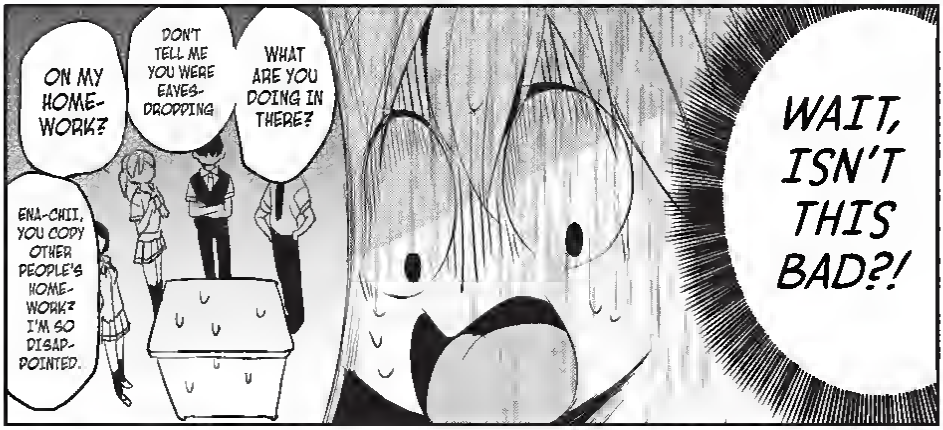
SUMMER BREAK STARTS TOMORROW.
OF COURSE, I'LL BE BUSY PROMOTING MY CD AND OTHER THINGS.
THIS SUMMER'S GOING TO BE FULL OF WORK.
CHAPTER 11
PUTTING SUMMER BREAK TO WORK

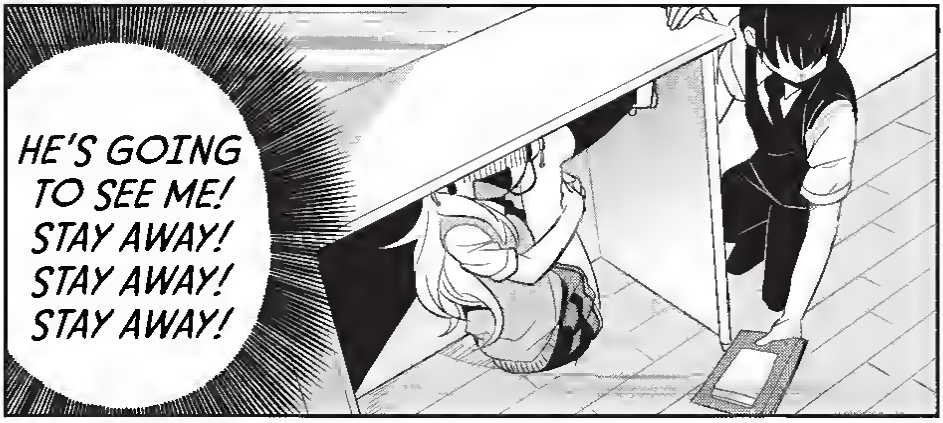

I GUESS THIS ALSO MEANS I WON'T BE ABLE TO EAVESDROP FOR A WHILE

WELL, YOU SEE... I'M JUST...
I'VE GOT TO RELOAD ON MY SOURCE OF CHEER. ER, I MEAN...
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ANTICIPATING THE CLASS REPRESENTATIVE, NARA-KUN,
TO DROP BY AND TELL HIM HE NEEDS TO GO HOME. I JUST HAPPENED TO CHOOSE THIS SPOT!
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MIKAGE-KUN STANDING THERE.
I-I JUST HAPPENED TO CHOOSE THE SPACE UNDER THE TEACHER'S LECTERN TO RELAX.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
OUR SUMMER BREAK HOME-WORK
HERE IT COMES!
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CLUB ACTIVITIES, HURRY UP AND GO HOME
THAT'S ALL! I JUST SORT OF HAPPEN TO OVERHEAR THEM TALKING!
I'M THE TYPE THAT LIKES TO GET IT OVER WITH QUICKLY.
OF COURSE I ESPECIALLY LOOK FORWARD TO THE MATH PROBLMES. THEY'RE THE BEST
EVERY-BODY DOES IT DIFFER-ENTLY.
AS I RECALL, YOU'RE THE TYPE TO DO YOUR HOME-WORK A LITTLE EVERY DAY.
IT'S-- OOPS.
I FOUND THE PERFECT THEME FOR MY ESSAY.
I THINK ...TO WRITE A REPORT EXPRESSING HOW MODERN SOCIETY RELIES ON VISUAL AIDS. IT HAS TO BE AT LEAST 1,500 WORDS.
THE ESSAY TOPIC FOR THAT ONE IS...
STARTING WITH THE EASIEST SUBJECT-- CURRENT EVENTS
I WAS HOPING TO FINISH PART OF IT RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW,

A PICTURE DIARY!
FWAP
DIARY

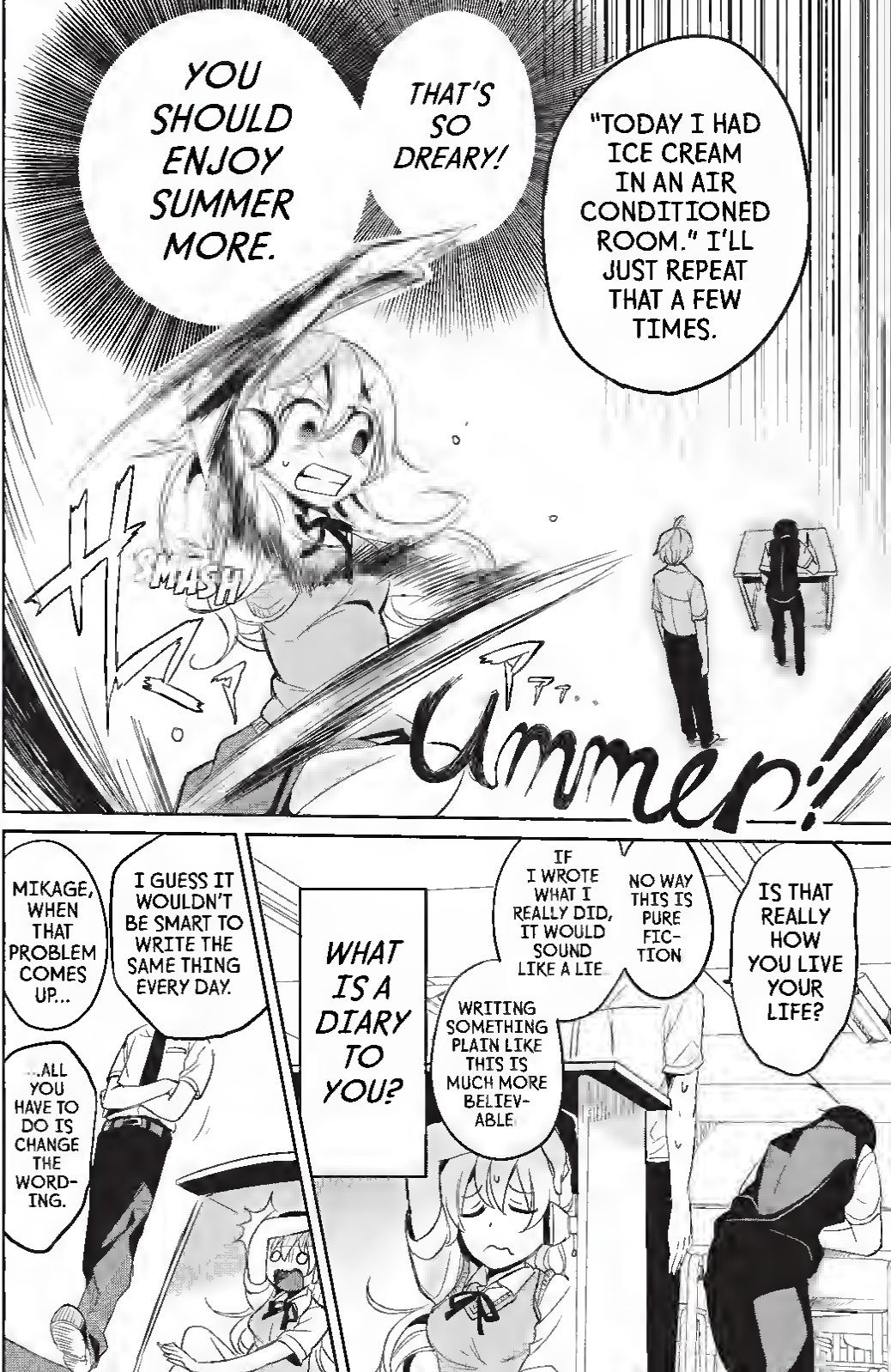

WAIT, ISN'T THIS BAD?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THERE?
DON'T TELL ME YOU WERE EAVES-DROPPING
ON MY HOME-WORK?
ENA-CHII, YOU COPY OTHER PEOPLE'S HOME-WORK? I'M SO DISAP-POINTED.


HE'S GOING TO SEE ME! STAY AWAY! STAY AWAY! STAY AWAY!

PHEW!
THAT NEARLY GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK.
THAT WAS SO EXHILARATING, I THINK IT'LL LAST ME ALL OF JULY.
THE PICTURE DIARY WAS SHOCKING ENOUGH ON ITS OWN.
IF I WRITE 33 WORDS PER DAY FOR 46 DAYS, I'LL REACH 1,500 WORDS IN NO TIME.
I WON'T EVEN NEED TO WORRY ABOUT CONNECTING MY THOUGHTS. IT'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE.
YEAH.
CTURE DIARY
THAT EXPLANATION ALONE WAS 33 WORDS.
WHAT A USELESS YET AMAZING SKILL!
I'M NOT SURE IT'S RIGHT TO WRITE DOWN YOUR ENTIRE DIARY BEFORE-HAND
DON'T WORRY. I WON'T WRITE IT ALL NOW.

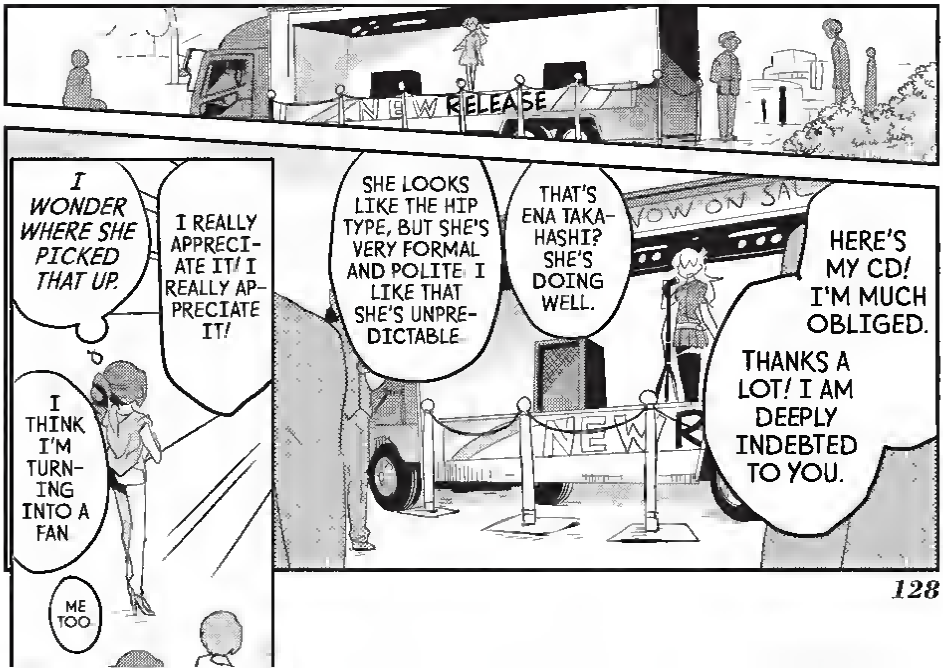
BAM
AUGUST 2ND (SUNNY)
I ONLY NEED TO FILL IN AUGUST ONWARD.
I'VE ALREADY DONE THE FIRST HALF OF SUMMER.
LAST YEAR?
SMACK
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON THIS FOR THAT LONG?
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU JUST GOT BORED OF IT.
IF YOU'RE THAT PASSIONATE ABOUT IT, I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR EFFORTS
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP, JUST LET ME KNOW.
YOU'RE GOING TO HELP HIM?
THANK YOU. LET'S START BY FILLING IN THE WEATHER FOR EACH DAY.
IF YOU JUST GUESS, IT'S NEVER GOING TO MATCH.
ACCORDING TO THE JAPANESE METEOROLOGY AGENCY, THIS SUMMER IS SUPPOSED TO BE SUNNY.

ALL RIGHT, SUNNY IT IS. SUNNY, SUNNY, SUNNY...
IT WON'T LOOK NATURAL IF YOU WRITE SUNNY EVERY DAY.
RAINY, CLOUDY, SUNNY, CLOUDY... HEH HEH.
THIS IS STARTING TO GET FUN. STORMY, SUNNY, HAILING, SUNNY, SNOWY, SNOWY...
SUCH ABNORMAL WEATHER!
WHAM
WHOA, THAT WAS CLOSE. IF I'D STOOD UP, THEY WOULD HAVE SEEN ME.
I'D BE MORE ABNORMAL THAN THAT WEATHER. I'D BE ABNORMAL ENA.
SWOOSH
AFTER THE WEATHER, WILL YOU WRITE AN ENTRY?
I SUPPOSE SO. LET'S SEE...


"TODAY I HAD ICE CREAM IN AN AIR CONDITIONED ROOM." I'LL JUST REPEAT THAT A FEW TIMES.
THAT'S SO DREARY!
YOU SHOULD ENJOY SUMMER MORE.
SMASH
Ummer!!
IS THAT REALLY HOW YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE?
NO WAY THIS IS PURE FIC-TION
IF I WROTE WHAT I REALLY DID, IT WOULD SOUND LIKE A LIE
WRITING SOMETHING PLAIN LIKE THIS IS MUCH MORE BELIEV-ABLE
WHAT IS A DIARY TO YOU?
I GUESS IT WOULDN'T BE SMART TO WRITE THE SAME THING EVERY DAY.
MIKAGE, WHEN THAT PROBLEM COMES UP...
...ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CHANGE THE WORD-ING.

I REALLY APPRECIATE IT
I'M MUCH OBLIGED
I AM DEEPLY INDEBTED TO YOU
WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT IS TO ADD SOME VARIATION.
BAM
SCRITCH
SCRITCH
ALL THESE SENTENCES MEAN THE SAME THING, BUT LOOK HOW MANY DIFFERENT WAYS WE CAN SAY IT
WITH JUST A LITTLE EFFORT, YOU TOO CAN MAKE THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE SPARKLE!
ARE YOU TEACHING A BUSINESS COURSE? JUST WRITE THE DIARY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?
NOOO! HE'LL FIND THE DIARY.
GO HOME IMMEDIATELY, YOU TWO.
I WANT TO LOCK UP.

SLIP 7
ウ…
JEEZ.
H-HUH?! TAKAHASHI, WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?!
I JUST SLIPPED IN.
I SEE. WELL, HURRY UP AND HEAD HOME.
BUT OF COURSE. I AM DEEPLY INDEBTED TO YOU.
HUH? YEAH, SURE.


NEW RELEASE
THANKS A LOT! I AM DEEPLY INDEBTED TO YOU.
HERE'S MY CD! I'M MUCH OBLIGED.
THAT'S ENA TAKAHASHI? SHE'S DOING WELL.
SHE LOOKS LIKE THE HIP TYPE, BUT SHE'S VERY FORMAL AND POLITE. I LIKE THAT SHE'S UNPREDICTABLE.
I REALLY APPRECIATE IT! I REALLY APPRECIATE IT!
I WONDER WHERE SHE PICKED THAT UP.
I THINK I'M TURNING INTO A FAN
ME TOO

English Digital Edition
Chapter 011

Takahashi-san is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。
Yu Hokuo

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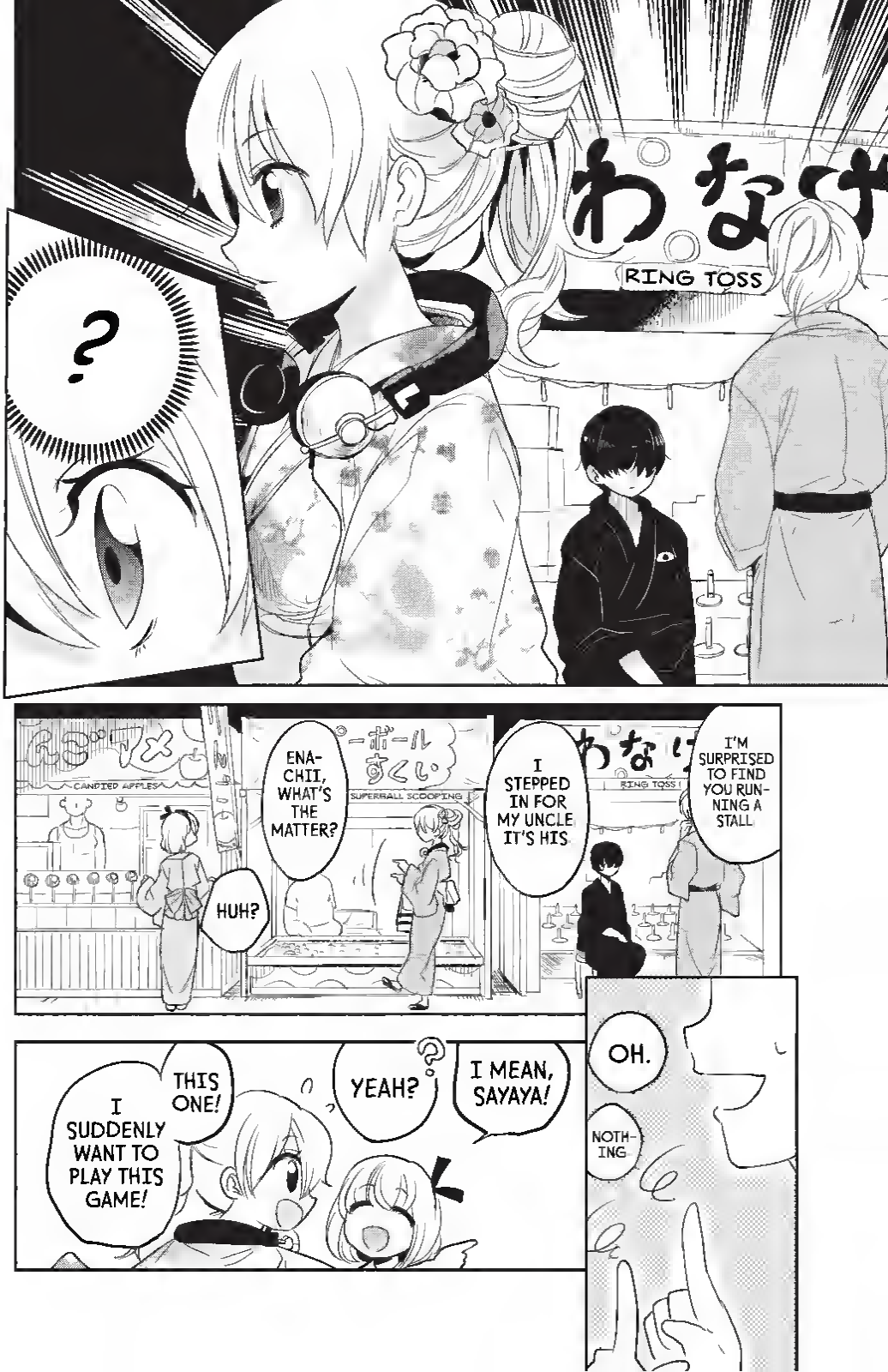
Takahashi-san is listening.

高橋さんが聞いている。

YO-YO
COTTON CANDY
RIGHT ON TIME, ENA-CHII! IMPRESSIVE AS ALWAYS.
YOU KNOW ME! I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SUMMER FESTIVAL.
CHAPTER 12
THINGS THAT NEVER CHANGE, AND THINGS THAT DO
I SEE A LOT OF OUR CLASS-MATES TOO.
OH, IT'S THE CLASS REPRESEN-TATIVE, NARA-KUN.
I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS THE FESTIVAL TYPE.
MAYBE HE'S HELP-ING OUT THE NEIGH-BORHOOD ASSOCIA-TION.
I THINK HE LIVES AROUND HERE.
THE NEIGH-BORHOOD ASSOCIA-TION? NOT TOO SHABBY


RING TOSS
?
CANDIED APPLES
SUPERBALL SCOOPING
RING TOSS!
ENA-CHII, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HUH?
I STEPPED IN FOR MY UNCLE IT'S HIS
I'M SURPRISED TO FIND YOU RUN-NING A STALL
OH.
NOTH-ING
I SUDDENLY WANT TO PLAY THIS GAME!
THIS ONE!
YEAH?
I MEAN, SAYAYA!

I'M JUST PLAYING A GAME HERE.
I JUST SO HAPPEN TO BE PLAYING IT RIGHT HERE.
わなげ
RING TOSS
射的
SHOOTING RANGE
THE SHOOTING RANGE? SURE!
THAT BAG IS SO CUTE!
NO ONE COULD BLAME ME FOR OVERHEARING WHAT GOES ON AT THE NEXT STALL, RIGHT?
TODAY'S A FESTIVAL, AFTER ALL!
EXCUSE ME, I'M WORKING HERE IF YOU'RE JUST WINDOW SHOPPING, COULD YOU MOVE ON?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
HUH?
MIKAGE,
DO I LOOK LIKE A MAN WHO'S JUST HERE FOR LOOKS?
OH YEAH? THEN ARE YOU PREPARED TO PAY 300 YEN TO PLAY?
THIS IS STARTING TO LOOK PRETTY SERIOUS. DON'T TELL ME...

RUMBLE
THIS REALLY IS SERI-OUS!
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE PLAYING A SHADOW GAME.
IT'S TIME TO DUEL!
THIS SHALL BE A RING TOSS TO THE DEATH!
OF COURSE! I'LL PUT UP 300 YEN AND MY VERY SOUL.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
I'M SORRY, SAYAYA THE NEXT STALL OVER IS JUST SO EXCITING
AT THE VERY LEAST, I'LL BE SURE TO GET YOU THAT BAG IN RETURN
BUT SERIOUSLY, THE RING TOSS ONLY HAS TWO OUTCOMES: IT EITHER LANDS ON A STICK OR IT DOESN'T
HOW CAN THEY TURN THAT INTO A CONTEST?
ENA-CHII, YOU'RE HOLD-ING IT WRONG
HONESTLY, I'M SUPER INTEREST-ED
THESE TWO NEVER FIGHT, BUT NOW THEY'RE IN A FULL-ON BATTLE!

ALL THE RINGS ARE THE SAME.
THEY'RE JUST PLAIN RINGS.
MY TURN!
I DRAW FIVE RINGS FROM MY DECK!
HE'S SAYING THAT AS IF THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT THOSE RINGS
BANG
OOPS THAT WAS SO UNEXPECTED THAT I AIMED FOR THE WRONG THING
YOU WIN!
GOOD. I DREW A GOOD RING THIS TIME.
THEY ARE ALL THE SAME!
I'LL USE THIS RING TO ATTACK THE RIGHT STICK IN THE BACK LINE!
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH STICK YOU HOOK!
SO YOU'RE GOING FOR THAT STICK? I'D EXPECT NOTHING LESS FROM A LEGENDARY DUELIST
BUT THEY'RE ALL THE SA--ACTUALLY, I MIGHT BE STARTING TO BELIEVE THEM NOW

BUT HE JUST THREW THEM NORMALLY, RIGHT?
DOUBLE STRIKE RING TOSS DESTRUC-TION!
TAKE THIS!
YOU ONLY HAVE YOURSELF TO BLAME FOR UNDERESTI-MATING ME!
BLAST
I WANT TO THROW OUT A RETORT.
IT'S SO HARD TO RESIST SAYING SOME-THING.
"EVEN A CHILD COULD COME UP WITH A BETTER SPECIAL MOVE!"
YOU WIN!
CHOCOLATE GUMMIES
IF ONLY THIS SUMMER FESTIVAL COULD LAST FOR AN ETER-NITY!
AH, I WISH I COULD STAY HERE FOREVER.
IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE I'VE INDULGED IN THIS HOBBY, BUT IT'S STILL GREAT.
TH-THIS IS FUN!

THERE. I GOT A POINT.
HOW ABOUT IT, MIKAGE? OMIT UR
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU'LL BEST ME THAT EASILY?
WHA?
WHAT ?!
SLIDE
YOU JUST ACTIVAT- ED MY TRAP!
THUMP
BODY SWITCH- ING TECH- NIQUE!
W-WHAT? WHAT WILL THAT EVEN DO FOR YOU?!

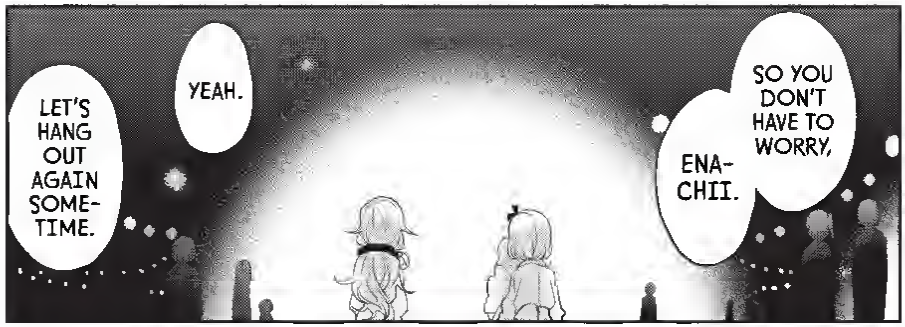
USING THIS DOLL, AS THE STALL WORKER...
...I'M ENTITLED TO INVALIDATE YOUR POINTS FOR NO REASON
FOR NO REASON?
BAM
AT LEAST MAKE ONE UP!
THE DOLL COULD GRANT YOU POWERS BY SACRIFICING ITS SOUL.
OR MAYBE EVEN THE GREAT GOD OF DOLLS GRANTS YOU HIS PROTECTION!
ALL THE PRIZES!
WAAAH!
SO YOU HAD A TRAP SET UP. I'D EXPECT NOTHING LESS FROM A LEGENDARY DUELIST
SO YOU'RE JUST FINE WITH NO REASON WHATSOEVER?
ALSO, WHAT? YOU'RE BOTH LEGENDARY DUELISTS?!

WHAT'S NARA-KUN GOING TO DO NOW?
I WILL
RUMBLE
...USE ANOTHER LIFE AND 300 YEN!
THEN I'LL DRAW FIVE MORE RINGS FROM MY DECK!
HE USED MONEY TO BUY HIMSELF MORE POWER.
RUMBLE
THIS IS HOW THE POWER OF GREED COR-RUPTS,
BUT TONIGHT, WE SHALL WITNESS THE END OF THE *BON FESTIVAL.
HERE, THE DEAD WILL BE RELEASED FROM ALL MORTAL DESIRES
WAIT, I'M GETTING CAUGHT UP IN THE MOOD
HMPH
I DON'T NEED IT.
KEEP YOUR MONEY AND YOUR LIFE.
YOU'RE FREE TO TOSS AS MANY RINGS AS YOU LIKE.

I COULDN'T ASK FOR MORE!
BUT BE PREPARED, FOR I SHALL NOT HOLD BACK!
OH, I SEE NOW!
THEY DON'T SERIOUSLY SEE EACH OTHER AS ENEMIES.
THEY'RE JUST ACKNOWLEDGING EACH OTHER'S STRENGTH.
THEY'RE
THEY'RE
TRUE RIVALS!
PLEASE, MISS! CAN YOU PLEASE GIVE ME A BREAK?
I KIND OF FEEL BAD NOW. YOU HAVE SO MUCH TO CARRY. SORRY.
NO, I'M HAPPY!
I'LL TREASURE ALL OF IT.
YOU REALLY LIKE SHOOTING, DON'T YOU, ENA-CHII?
YEAH, SHOOTING

AFTER ALL, WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO COME TOGETHER NEXT YEAR.
WON'T YOU BE EVEN MORE BUSY AS AN IDOL?
SORRY, SAYAYA CAN WE GO BACK AND PLAY AGAIN?
NOPE.
NO MORE PLAY-ING THAT GAME.
BUT ...
BUT NEXT YEAR ..
THAT STALL MIGHT NOT BE THERE.
ENA-CHII, YOU HAVE TO KEEP ON MOVING FORWARD.
TAKOYAKI
SPRING WATER
かき氷

EVEN IF YOU STAY COM-PLETELY STILL,
YOU CAN'T STOP OTHER THINGS FROM LEAVING YOUR SIDE
YOU HAVE TO KEEP GOING,
BUT NO MATTER WHAT KINDS OF THINGS YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH, I'LL STAY WITH YOU.



THE RING TOSS STALL IS ALREADY GONE!
WHO KNOWS WHAT LIFE HAS IN STORE FOR ME NOW.
A DOLL SHOP IS MORE PROFIT-ABLE FOR ME, NARA-KUN

TAKAHASHI-SAN IS LISTENING 1
END

OF COURSE, THEY'RE ALL HANDMADE FROM ORGANIC SOURCES.
.. TAKAHASHI-SAN IS LISTENING VOLUMES ARE DILIGENTLY MANUFACTURED, ONE BY ONE.
SQUEENIX
IN A SMALL FACTORY IN A PLUTONIAN MARKET...
PLUTO
I THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO FORGE ON WITH OUR TRADITIONAL CREATION PROCESS.
BUT AS LONG AS THERE'S EVEN JUST ONE FAN OF THE SERIES...
OF COURSE, ALL THE TIME,
DO YOU EVER FIND THIS JOB TOO DIFFICULT TO MANAGE?
THE PRINTING IS DONE BY OUR EXPERT CRAFTSMEN.
A DREAM...
HUH?

AFTERWORD

THANK YOU FOR PICKING UP THIS VOLUME.

THIS ALL STARTED AS A SMALL, WILD IDEA. WHETHER BY CHANCE OR BY NECESSITY, A NUMBER OF EVENTS EVENTUALLY LED ME TO RELEASE THIS MENACE OF A COMIC. ONCE I STARTED, THAT ONE WILD IDEA WENT AS FAR AS IT COULD GO AND ENDED UP CREATING ITS OWN WORLD.

HOWEVER, I DO BELIEVE THAT YOU PICKING UP THIS COMIC WHEN YOU COULD HAVE CHOSEN ANY OF COUNTLESS OTHERS OUT THERE IS NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE OF YOUR OWN MAKING.

I HOPE THIS BOOK INSPIRES YOU TO CREATE A WORLD OF YOUR OWN.

I'D BE OVERJOYED IF I GET A CHANCE TO SEE YOU AGAIN IN VOLUME 2.

SINCERELY YOURS FROM EARTH,

北欧ゆう

-YU HOKUO

I JUST HAPPENED TO OVERHEAR IT!

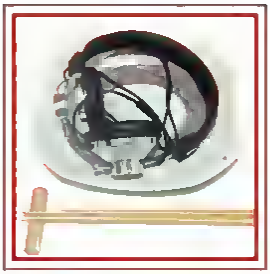
AND ALL FOR ONE!
YEAH!
ONE FOR ALL!
YEEEAH! YEAH!
THE STUDENTS WOULD DO THOSE CRAZY IDOL FAN DANCES DURING SCHOOL SPEECHES.
IF OUR PRINCIPAL WERE AN IDOL, OUR SCHOOL WOULD BE IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN
AMAZ-ING
YEAH, WE'D HAVE THE LOUDEST MORNING ASSEMBLIES IN THE COUNTRY.
TCH
WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN. IF THE STUDENTS BEGAN TO DANCE ..
IT WOULD DETRACT FROM THE PRESENCE OF OUR IDOL PRINCIPAL.
RI
OTHERWISE, I'D BE THE CENTER OF ATTENTION, NOT THE PRINCIPAL. AND NOT IN A GOOD WAY.
I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL SO THAT NO ONE SEES ME EAVES-DROPPING

NEXT VOLUME PREVIEW

THE NEW SEMESTER STARTS!
THE SECOND SEMESTER IS ALMOST HERE!

VOLUME 2 GOES ON SALE FEBRUARY 22, 2014!

COVER FLAP



北欧ゆう Yu Hokuo

I'M REALLY THANKFUL THAT YOU DECIDED TO PICK THIS BOOK UP. TO MY FAMILY, MY EDITOR, MY FRIENDS, AND ALL MY READERS, IT'S THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT THAT I COULD RELEASE THIS COMIC, MY FIRST VOLUME. NOTHING WOULD PLEASE ME MORE THAN TO KNOW THIS COMIC MAY GIVE A MOMENT OF HAPPINESS, AND MAKE ALL MY READERS' DAYS MORE ENJOYABLE

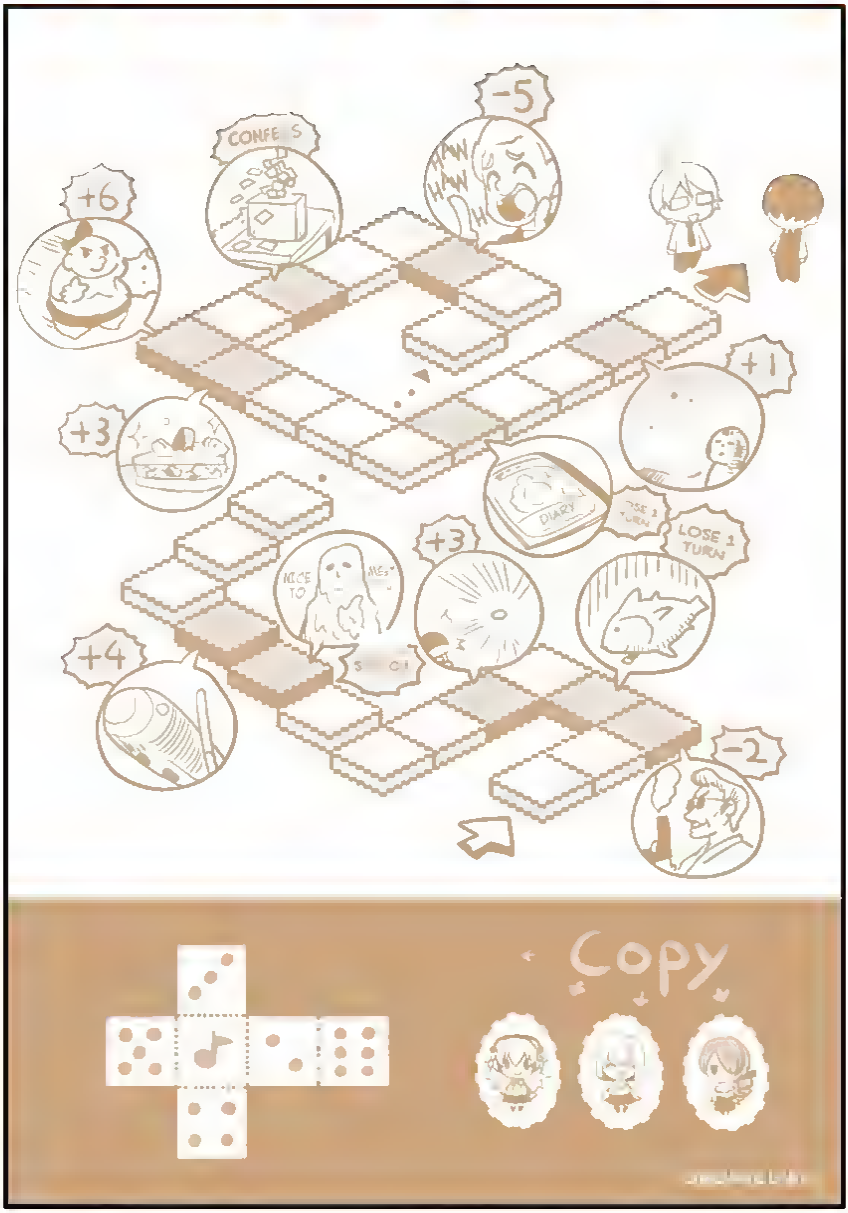
※ AUTHOR COMMENT AS SEEN IN FIRST RELEASE OF COMIC

FRONT INNER COVER

TAKAHASHI-SAN
IS LISTENING.

※ ILLUSTRATION AS SEEN IN FIRST RELEASE OF COMIC

BACK INNER COVER



※ ILLUSTRATION AS SEEN IN FIRST RELEASE OF COMIC

FRONT COVER

※COVER AS SEEN IN FIRST RELEASE OF COMIC

BACK COVER

I BELIEVE WILLIAM TELL USED TO SHARK HIS HEIGHT LIKE THIS, TOO.
APPLE AND SHARK A HARMONIOUS UNION OF BOTH THE FLAVOR OF THE MOUNTAINS AND THE SEA.

※COVER AS SEEN IN FIRST RELEASE OF COMIC

English Digital Edition
Chapter 012

Takahashi-san is listening.
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Yu Hokuo

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